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Reaganomics,
reality and
recovery, Page 10

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Asia	Sch. 15	Indonesia	Rp 1500	Poland	Pln. 20
Australia	A\$ 1.00	Italy	L. 1100	Portugal	Esc 20
Canada	C\$ 1.00	Japan	¥ 150	S. Arabia	R. 6.00
Denmark	Dkr 7.00	Korea	₩ 100	Singapore	S\$ 4.10
France	FF 5.00	Malaysia	RM 1.00	Spain	Pes 165
Germany	DM 2.00	Mexico	₱ 16.00	Switzerland	Sfr 5.00
Greece	Dr 34	Netherlands	ƒ 2.25	Taiwan	NT\$ 1.00
India	Rs 15	Norway	Nkr 6.00	USA	\$ 1.00

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Gales foil Danish fishery challenge

Gales in the North Sea forced Danish fishermen to postpone their challenge to new EEC fishing regulations and a possible confrontation with Britain's navy.

Some vessels did leave Danish ports, but none approached Britain's new 12-mile zone off Scotland, the Shetlands, or north-east England, where they plan to fish.

One who did not set off was Esbjerg fishermen's leader Kent Kirk, a conservative MP in the European Parliament. He hopes to set off today in his 140-ton trawler Sand Kirk, with reporters aboard. Page 12.

Fatah men escape

Samih Abu Queek and other Palestinian Fatah Commando leaders escaped an assassination attempt near Bealbeck, Lebanon. PLO military leader Khalil al-Wazir denied the PLO was negotiating with Israel about captured Israelis.

Lebanese, Israeli and U.S. delegations met for the third time in a week to try to resolve an agenda dispute about talks on an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Page 2.

Sorsa carries on

Social Democrat Kalevi Sorsa was reappointed Finland's Premier, leading a coalition without Socialists and Communists.

Zimbabwe setback

Zimbabwe Government's campaign against political violence received a setback over the holidays during which 10 people, mostly whites, were murdered, two abducted, and several injured. Page 2.

French protests

French workers at Strasbourg, who have been sitting in at a paper factory that has halted production, dumped tons of sawdust, blocking the Europe Bridge across the Rhine from West Germany. French anti-nuclear campaigners set sail to confront a Cherbourg-bound Japanese freighter carrying nuclear waste.

Belgian store sit-in

Hundreds of staff occupied Belgian department store Galeries Anspach branches in Brussels, Mons, Namur and Charleroi, after the management said the company was stopping trading because it was bankrupt.

Church man sacked

Ronal Carver was sacked as secretary of the Zambia Anglican Council after publication in the Times of Zambia of extracts from a private letter he sent to England, in which he described local clergy as rogues.

Rain storm kills 40

A sudden rain storm flooded Belo Horizonte, Brazil's third largest city, killing at least 40 people and leaving 1,500 homeless. Ice weather killed 11 in North India. Louisiana floods have left 10,000 homeless. Kilueva volcano erupted in freezing southern Italy after earthquake tremors.

Left-luggage snip

Seitheby Parke Bernet is to auction in New York in May a 3,000-year-old Egyptian statue found in a crate undisturbed for 50 years at the disused Chautauque railway station in the Finger Lakes district.

Briefly

China, anxious to prevent its population reaching 1.2bn by the year 2000, launched a new birth control campaign.

Cosetta, Italy: Three men were burned to death in a suspected gangland killing.

Haitian underground group said it was responsible for a Port-au-Prince car bombing that killed four people and injured nine.

BUSINESS

Frankfurt exchange at 3-year record

FRANKFURT Stock Exchange prices rose to reach the highest level of prices since October 1979, with the Commerzbank index, based on 60 companies, 9.8 points up from Thursday's close at 773.2. Page 15.

WALL STREET: Dow Jones index closed 19.5 down at 1027.4. Page 15.

HONG KONG: Hang Seng index fell 17.38, to 756.96. Page 15.

LONDON, and TOKYO exchanges were shut for the New Year holiday.

ROMANIA has told Western banks it is suspending 1983 debt repayments, pending renegotiation of a rescheduling. Page 12.

EEC estimated that its crude steel production was 11 per cent down in 1982, at 110m tonnes. Berlin steel contract for UK, Page 3.

BRITISH Government asked the Austin Rover car division of BL to delay placing component supply contracts, more of which were believed to be going abroad. Page 12.

EMS Dec 31, 1982. Grid.

ECU movement.

French franc was given support on Friday, to keep it within its agreed European Monetary System limits. The German Bundesbank bought Bf 95m when the franc fell to its lowest permitted level, DM 5.4740 per 100 francs, at the Frankfurt fixing.

The franc currency was also near its intervention point against the guilder, but trading was quiet near the year-end.

The French franc also finished 1982 on a weak note against the D-Mark as speculation grew that the weaker members of the EMS would probably come under pressure to adjust downwards against the D-Mark and guilder early in the New Year.

The chart shows the two constraints on European Monetary System exchange rates. The upper grid, based on the weakest currency in the system, defines the cross rates from which no currency (except the lira) may move more than 2% per cent.

The lower chart gives each currency's divergence from its "central rate" against the European Currency Unit (ECU), itself a basket of European currencies.

U.S. MONEY SUPPLY: M-1 fell \$2.4bn to \$478.1bn in the week to December 22.

CHINA produced a record 644m tonnes of coal in 1982, 8.5m more than in 1979.

SOVIET gas production rose by 35bn cu m to 500bn cu m, 16bn cu m more than the target figure.

ISRAELI exports of polished gem diamonds fell 16 per cent in 1982 to \$900m.

INDONESIA, which has held oil production to an Opec-mandated 1.3m barrels a day, may increase that figure in 1983. Page 3.

SWITZERLAND's four major banks reduced interest on three to five-month maturities from 3 per cent to 2%, and on six to 12-month maturities from 3% per cent to 2%.

PRUDENTIAL, Britain's largest life company, took 8 per cent more annual premiums, at £261.8m (£423.5m) in 1982 and 45 per cent more single premiums at £204.3m. Page 16.

Pressure grows on Britain to ease PLO stance

BY DAVID TONGE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, IN LONDON

Algeria and Qatar have lined up beside Saudi Arabia in putting pressure on Britain to ease its policy towards the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Some Arab countries believe a change in policy is already under way.

Qatar has reportedly joined Saudi Arabia in rejecting British requests that Mr Francis Pym, the UK Foreign Secretary, should visit their countries during his tour of the Gulf which begins on Friday.

These diplomatic rebuffs have been backed up by threats of trade sanctions from Saudi Arabia and the cancellation by Algeria of a mission to London. According to trade diplomats, the mission was expected to result in the signing of a major agricultural contract.

There were suggestions yesterday, however, that there may be movement by both sides. Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told the BBC that talks were continuing to establish the basis for the Arab League mission which will come to London "within a matter of weeks".

The Kuwait News Agency said the Arab League mission would go ahead in late January. It said both sides had compromised. It quoted diplomatic sources in Rabat as saying that a PLO official would travel with the group. The group is due to hold talks in Rabat on January 21, according to the agency. British officials refused to comment on the report.

Mr Hurd yesterday sought to play down the acute concern felt in Whitehall over Britain's Middle East policy. He stressed the Government's view that the PLO must change its policy if it were to be received by senior British ministers.

There are clear divisions, however, between the Foreign Office and Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, over her refusal to allow any easing of Britain's line on the PLO.

Foreign Office officials are openly critical of the way the Government reacted to a sudden request that the PLO should join in the Arab League visit which was due to have been led by King Hassan of Morocco last month.

The delegation was scheduled to be received by the Queen, Mrs Thatcher and Mr Pym. But on November 21, 10 days before it was due to arrive, the Arab League asked that a PLO representative should be included.

Similar missions visited the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council last year to put across the results of the Pym summit, although in Washington the PLO was not officially received.

On November 26 the British Government told the six Arab countries due to visit London - Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Tunisia - that the PLO representative in the delegation should be a statement condemning terrorism and recognising the PLO summit declaration.

The minister was speaking in Brussels last night of talks with the European Commission. He suggested that there was a serious threat of confrontation and conflict between the world's three major trading blocs.

Mr Abe gave a veiled warning that Japan might consider retaliation if there were further protectionist barriers to Japanese exports.

Last month the EEC Council of Ministers demanded tangible assurances that Japan would restrain exports and adopt a more open policy on imports in 1983. But Mr Abe did not indicate any specific measures.

Mr Abe is due to attend key trade talks in Tokyo on February 13 between Japan's economic ministers. The talks will determine Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's stance when, the following week, he discusses trade frictions with President Ronald Reagan in Washington.

The only clear cut result of Mr Abe's talks with senior European commissioners was apparently a decision in principle to strengthen the regular high-level consultations between Japan and the EEC that have taken place for the past 10 years. Both Brussels and Tokyo are to examine the idea that in future these meetings should be held between ministers rather than officials, as at present.

Mr Abe yesterday underlined the new Japanese Government's determination to pursue further trade liberalisation policies. It is certain that he will find himself under heavy pressure to accelerate and expand the Japanese efforts during his tour of the major EEC capitals.

Mr Abe is also expected to come under state control soon. Although Atlantic, part of the nationalised CCE group, is planned to take a majority stake.

The CEM spokesman could give no financial details on the Japanese deal yesterday. He said CEM's robot turnover, including that under the Yaskawa agreement, was expected to double this year to FF 30m (\$445m) from FF 15m in 1982.

CEM would initially be selling more of its robots in Japan than Yaskawa would in the French market. Hypothetical figures were of the order of 20 Yaskawa robots to be sold in France this year and 100 next year, while 200 CEM robots could be sold in Japan.

The Yaskawa equipment differed from the robots at present on offer by French manufacturers because they were powered electrically rather than hydraulically, he added.

Yaskawa will help market in Japan the smaller robots produced by CEM. It will also give the French company technical assistance to broaden its range of robots, which are used essentially by the motor and electrical industries.

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of a series of visits to EEC capitals. Another French company, Manutec, which is in the state-controlled Matra group, has also been discussing a robotic agreement for several months with leading Japanese constructor, Fanuc. But no accord has yet been finalised.

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UK job losses highest in EEC

By Giles Merritt in Brussels

THE SCALE of Britain's industrial job losses since 1978, compared with those of other EEC countries, has been highlighted by figures from the European Commission.

EEC calculations not only show that the UK has suffered the most severe industrial decline in the Community during the four years to early 1982, but also single Britain out as the only member state to have seen service-sector employment decrease during that period.

The total number of industrial jobs in the UK fell by 15 per cent between the first quarter of 1978 and the first quarter of last year. From a 1978 level of 7,218,000 industrial jobs in Britain, that number had already declined by some 14 per cent in the first quarter of 1981.

For the EEC of Nine as a whole, with a collective industrial workforce in 1978 of 25,732,000 people, the job losses amounted to 6 per cent during the three-year period, and climbed to 10 per cent by the beginning of last year. The EEC country that escaped with the least shedding of industrial jobs was Ireland, with 1 per cent losses by 1981 and 2 per cent by 1982, followed by West Germany, where the figures were 1 per cent and 4 per cent respectively.

In the services sector, only the UK showed a reduction in the employed labour force between 1980 and 1981, with the number of service jobs dropping 2.7 per cent to 13,762,000 from 14,200,000. In Belgium, service jobs remained static, but, elsewhere, increases of 1 per cent to 2.6 per cent were recorded.

The European Commission analysis underlines Britain's claim that it has suffered the severest steel industry cutbacks. But it also makes plain that its sectors ranging from chemicals to mechanical engineering and motor cars to textiles, the UK's industrial streamlining has been more drastic than that of its major EEC competitors.

From mid-1981 to mid-1982 the British steel industry saw jobs cut by 11.7 per cent to 81,700, while of the other major EEC steelmakers the nearest to that level was West Germany, with a 5.6 per cent cut in steel jobs to 180,000. Belgium and France saw their steel jobs drop by 3.3 per cent, and for Italy and the Netherlands the reduction was 2.7 per cent and 1.9 per cent.

Political divide, Page 12

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Howe insists policies will remain tight

BY MAX WILKINSON, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT, IN LONDON

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, is determined to resist pressures for any major relaxation of his financial policies in the run-up to the general election this year.

Despite the prospect of a continuing rise in unemployment in the UK and Europe and a generally bleaker outlook for the world economy, Sir Geoffrey emphasised in a New Year interview with the Financial Times that the fight against inflation remains his top priority.

He said: "I think the whole concept of looking for an easing of policies as a kind of generalised prescription for improving our chances of getting through to a sustainable recovery carries the risk of being led in the wrong direction."

"What is actually essential to all the discussions we have had at the international level or the European level is people's understanding of the need to go on making headway against inflation, against the risk posed by high and potentially rising public deficits, with all that those could imply for a reversal in the trends on interest rates."

On the domestic front Sir Geoffrey said his main task this year "must be to ensure continued success on the underlying essentials of inflation, to curb public borrowing, public spending and to give such encouragement as one can - if any - to the process of putting growth in place."

On the international scene Sir Geoffrey, who has just been elected chairman of the interim committee of the International Monetary Fund, said his most important task would be to hasten the process of strengthening the fund and "steering the world economy through this stage of transition."

The austere tone of Sir Geoffrey's message was clearly intended to discourage speculation in the City and among his own back-benchers that he might be planning a large shift of emphasis in his March budget from the control of public borrowing towards a more expansionary fiscal stance.

But he added significantly: "Whether you can do anything at all depends on whether you have room to do so and one does come back continuously to focus one's attention towards a more expansionary fiscal stance."

Economic forecast, Page 11

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Tokyo minister warns of trade collision course

BY GILES MERRITT IN BRUSSELS

MR SHINJIRO ABE, the Japanese Foreign Minister, warned last night that the European Community, the U.S. and Japan needed to make the "utmost effort" if a collision course over trade disputes were to be averted.

The minister was speaking in Brussels last night of talks with the European Commission. He suggested that there was a serious threat of confrontation and conflict between the world's three major trading blocs.

Mr Abe gave a veiled warning that Japan might consider retaliation if there were further protectionist barriers to Japanese exports.

Last month the EEC Council of Ministers demanded tangible assurances that Japan would restrain exports and adopt a more open policy on imports in 1983. But Mr Abe did not indicate any specific measures.

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Thatcher chose new Bank Governor

BY PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN LONDON

THE MAJORITY of advice within the UK Treasury was against the appointment of Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton as Governor of the Bank of England. The decision, announced late last month, was made personally by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister.

It is understood that Mr Leigh-Pemberton's name was not on most internal short-lists, although consultations within the Treasury were kept to a small group of politicians and senior officials. Mr Leigh-Pemberton is chairman of National Westminster Bank.

The explanation offered within Whitehall is that Mrs Thatcher felt more comfortable with Mr Leigh-Pemberton than with other candidates, both because she knew him and because of shared values. Mr

Leigh-Pemberton will succeed the present Governor, Mr Gordon Richardson, who was given a life peerage in the New Year honours list, at the end of June.

The choice of Mr Leigh-Pemberton and his subsequent public comments about economic and banking policy have been regarded with dismay by some officials and Members of Parliament. They feel that he lacks the intellectual authority and experience to undertake the central role in international banking talks performed by the retiring Governor.

OVERSEAS NEWS

'U.S. responsible for stalemate at Start talks'

BY ANTHONY ROBINSON IN MOSCOW

THE SOVIET leadership has started the new year blowing hot and cold over three of the major politico-strategic problems facing the Soviet Union—arms control, Afghanistan and the overall state of U.S.-Soviet relations.

The first blast of warm air came with a simulated New Year "interview" in which Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader, "replied" to questions put to him in writing by an editor of the U.S. Hearst newspaper chain.

Mr Andropov stated that "objectively" there were grounds for a "compromise agreement" on nuclear arms and cautiously held out the possibility of a summit meeting with President Reagan by re-stating the Soviet leadership's view that summits could be useful—if well prepared in advance.

This was promptly followed by a cold blast in the form of an official Tass statement on New Year's Eve that re-stated all the old Soviet justifications for the presence of a "limited contingent" of Soviet forces in Afghanistan at the behest of the legitimate Kabul Government and went on to accuse "some powers" of behaving "in such a way as if they were interested in Soviet forces staying in Afghanistan as long as possible."

This general theme, that all the good intentions of the Soviet Union are being frustrated by the machinations of other countries determined to maintain maximum pressure on the Russian economy and the socialist system generally was then taken up with a vengeance in Pravda.

The newspaper bluntly stated that the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Start) in Geneva were at a stalemate and said: "The U.S. Administration, which persists in its absolutely one-sided approach is totally responsible." It contrasted the Soviet negotiating position, based on the principle of equality and equal security with the U.S. proposals "which are openly directed at upsetting the strategic parity and ensuring advantages for itself."

The American approach,

Pravda added "is not a way to reach a mutually acceptable agreement but a plan for a unilateral disarmament of the Soviet Union camouflaged as a proposal on reductions and thus ensuring for the U.S. the superiority it once had in the strategic field."

The Soviet assertion of a stalemate in the Start talks contrasts strongly with the guarded optimism expressed by Gen Edward Rowny, the chief U.S. negotiator at Geneva. In a U.S. television interview on December 28, he said there was a 50-50 chance of reaching a Start agreement in 1983 and that the last six months of talks in Geneva had produced more progress than was achieved during two years of Salt talks in the late 1970s.

Western diplomats believe that the Pravda article is the forerunner of a massive propaganda campaign aimed directly at U.S. public opinion on the lines of that already well-under way in Europe, with the object of stimulating opposition to the stationing of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles.

But the arguments used also reflect Soviet concern that the real aim of the Reagan Administration is not parity with the Soviet Union, except on "humiliating" terms which would include the virtual writing off of much of the huge Soviet military investment of the past. This, for example, is how the Soviet military is believed to see President Reagan's proposal for deep cuts in land-based missiles, which make up 70 per cent of the Soviet nuclear armory as against only 20 per cent for the U.S.

Pravda said that the U.S. proposals amounted to a "plan for the unilateral disarmament of the Soviet Union" and calculated, without saying how, that they would oblige Russia "to dismantle more than 90 per cent of all its ICBMs which are known to make up the basis of Soviet strategic might."

But what makes the Reagan proposals even more galling in Soviet eyes is that they are coupled with an unprecedented peacetime increase in U.S. military spending, including strategic arms expenditure.

Arms cuts ruled out by Mitterrand

By David Marsh in Paris

PRESIDENT Francois Mitterrand, delivering austere New Year messages on economic and foreign policy over the weekend, called for more sacrifices from French people to fight unemployment and firmly ruled out any cuts in the country's nuclear armory.

On economic issues, Mitterrand took a further leaf out of the book of the French employers' federation, the *Confédération*, which he has been trying to woo—so far without much success—for several months.

Setting out objectives for 1983 in a traditional television New Year's Eve allocation, the President said the most pressing aim was to improve the productive capability of the company sector.

Referring to projects for corporate aid on which the Government is already working, he said companies social and financial charges had to be lowered.

In a sombre summing up of the economic crisis, which he called "universal," Mitterrand said the Government would do more to combat youth unemployment. The aim was to give all those aged between 18 and 25 either training or a job.

Expanding on the Socialist theme of "laïcité" at home and abroad, the President said in a second address—made in the form of an interview with TV journalists on Sunday—that all Frenchmen living above the poverty line would have to make a "supplementary effort" to preserve jobs and bring down inflation.

Referring to Moscow's pre-Christmas proposal for nuclear arms cuts, Mitterrand said it was "not even worth dreaming about" any cuts in France's independent nuclear force, which is being reinforced.

Mitterrand said equilibrium of forces in Europe and the world was the best recipe for peace. Reaffirming his country's independent defence policy, he said France would not allow any other nation to look after French security.

Legal dilemma of Danish fish threat

BY LARRY KLINGER IN BRUSSELS

THE DANISH fishermen's threat to enter waters "reserved" for the British fleet poses a serious legal question for the European Community: can measures be effectively imposed throughout the Community in the absence of an EEC policy agreed by all 10 member states?

The Danish fishermen claim that, without a policy agreed unanimously, virtually all Community waters are open to Community fishermen.

The other member states maintain that the measures they have taken individually are a "legal necessity" to fill the vacuum left by the expiration on December 31 of the temporary fishing arrangements brought in 10 years ago when Britain, Denmark and Ireland joined the EEC.

It became clear, however, during the eleven-hour negotiations leading to the year-end collapse of the talks aimed at

establishing a Community-wide Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) that there may be no simple answer.

The European Commission will have to take up the issue when it meets tomorrow, but indications are that it is likely to support the view held by the Nine.

The Commission has already approved on a temporary basis one British measure strongly contested by the Danish fishermen: the so-called "box" around the Shetland and Orkney islands in which British boats have been given preference.

Nevertheless, the reluctance of the Nine at the end of last year to implement national measures was based on a widespread belief that a strong legal challenge could be mounted, especially in the European Court. What was not foreseen was an immediate sizeable challenge on the high seas.

Nearly six years of often bitter negotiation, during which several countries had blocked final agreement when their own demands seemed in danger of being undermined, finally collapsed late last month when the Danish Government was prevented from accepting a succession of offers from its EEC partners.

The Danish fishing industry argued that unless it was given greater quotas of white fish and mackerel to ensure supplies for its processing industry, it would maintain its view that Community waters would become wide open when the temporary accession arrangements elapsed.

Another key demand was for licences to fish within the Shetlands "box," something that was unacceptable to the British Government.

At issue is a policy designed to conserve and, in some cases, build up the EEC's fishing resources while sharing out the Community's "total allowable

catch" equitably among the main fishing nations. As agreed by the Nine, the proposals contain two main elements:

● Quotas: Each country would be allocated global percentages with tonnage limits detailed for each of the EEC's seven most valuable species: cod, haddock, whiting, plaice, saithe, red fish and herring. Britain would get the highest overall quota at around 30 per cent, followed by Denmark (23), West Germany (14) and France (13).

● Access: Exclusive rights would be provided for local fishermen up to six miles from shore, with limited traditional rights granted in certain areas for other countries between six and 12 miles. British fishermen would receive preferential treatment in the wider "box" around the Shetlands and Orkneys, where fishing by other countries would be limited by licence.

Lebanon talks still deadlocked

TALKS BETWEEN Lebanon, Israel and the U.S. yesterday failed for the third time in a week to agree on an agenda for formal negotiations on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon, North Boustary reports from Beirut.

Meeting at Khalde, five miles south of the Lebanese capital, the U.S., Israeli and Lebanese negotiating teams engaged in consultations throughout the day and only held two brief formal plenary sessions.

Mr Antoine Farhat, the chief Lebanese negotiator, voted some "flexibility" on the Israeli side, adding, however, that it was still dwelling on the issue of "normalisation" of ties between Lebanon and Israel. Lebanon is apprehensive of plunging into normalisation at the expense of its economic standing in the Arab world.

"We will continue our efforts to reach agreement on the agenda for the negotiations during our next meeting on Thursday," a U.S. embassy spokesman said.

Polish Unions formed

Poland's Government-sponsored trade unions, set up after Solidarity was outlawed, began working formally yesterday with little interest from workers and a tentative approach from activists. Reuter reports from Warsaw. The unions are being formed initially only at the level of individual enterprises, unlike Solidarity, which was organised on regional lines.

Grundig merger

Grundig, the West German consumer electronics concern and Thomson-Brandt, the French electrical giant, have emphasised their determination to press ahead with their controversial merger plans with the revelation yesterday that Thomson-Brandt had recorded officially its proposed acquisition of 75 per cent of Grundig. Stewart Fleming reports from Frankfurt.

Free Trade accord

A free trade agreement came into force on New Year's Day between Australia and New Zealand. It will free up trade between the two countries and gradually phase out New Zealand's import restrictions and export subsidies, writes Dai Hayward in Wellington.

Zimbabwe killings severe setback for Mugabe

BY OUR HARARE CORRESPONDENT

REBELS in Zimbabwe have abducted two people and killed 10, nine of them whites. One was beheaded.

The killings are a severe setback to claims by Mr Robert Mugabe's government that it was gaining the upper hand in the campaign against self-styled Nkomo supporters.

The abductors claim that they are fighting for Mr Joshua Nkomo's opposition Zapu Party, and demanded the return to Zapu of farms confiscated early last year after arms caches were

found on them. This was reminiscent of the demands made by the kidnappers of six Western tourists north of Bulawayo last July, when the dissidents demanded the release of two prominent Zimra commanders.

At the weekend, the Minister responsible for security in Mr Mugabe's Government, Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa said he had reason to believe that five of the six young tourists—two Australian, two British and two American—were still alive.

Pretoria reform hopes pinned on party congress

BY J. D. F. JONES IN CAPE TOWN

THE SOUTH AFRICAN Government's proposals for constitutional reform will be the sole topic at the three-day annual congress of the Labour Party, the principal political party representing the Coloured community. The congress opened in Eshowe, Natal yesterday.

The government is not concealing its concern that the congress should give at least qualified approval to its constitutional plan, which would bring the 2.5m Coloureds back into the parliamentary arena—in one of three chambers—but envisages no role for the 20m blacks.

Outright rejection of the constitutional plan by the Labour Party would be a serious blow to Mr P. W. Botha's Government since it would then be extremely difficult to claim credibility for the reforms.

The Labour Party appears to be split, and it is possible that the rift will widen this week.

Trudeau bids to boost Canada's image in Asia

BY VICTOR MACKIE IN OTTAWA

MR PIERRE TRUDEAU, the Canadian Prime Minister, arrived in Hong Kong yesterday on the first leg of a 12-day Asian tour designed to enhance Canada's image in the Far East as a credible alternative trading partner to the U.S. and European nations.

Mr Trudeau is due in Bangkok today, where his first official stop includes talks with Thailand's Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda.

Mr Trudeau will also visit the four other members of the Association of South East Asian Nations

(Asean)—Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines—and Japan.

Dozens of Canadian manufacturing firms are interested in competing for hundreds of millions of dollars in major industrial and technological projects throughout the Asean nations.

Senior Canadian officials said yesterday that Mr Trudeau's presence in the region should enhance Canada's image with South East Asian governments and businessmen.

"What has really gone against us is that we do not try hard enough," in competition with other high-technology suppliers, the official said.

Canadian companies will be bidding to sell mining technology to Thailand as well as aircraft, electronics equipment, telecommunications products, forestry technology and other services.

Mr Ed Lumley, the Canadian Industry Minister, has announced the formation of a task force to examine problems in the automotive

and automotive parts industries, Canada's largest manufacturing sector.

The purpose of the task force will be to review the development, competitive environment and position of the Canadian automotive industry and to identify priorities and formulate strategies.

Mr Patrick Lavella, President of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association and Mr Robert White, the leader of the Canadian United Automobile Workers (UAW) will co-chair the task force.

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Steelwork contract for UK causes alarm in Berlin

BY LESLIE COLT IN BERLIN

CLEVELAND BRIDGE and Engineering Company of the UK, has won a contract worth DM 80m (£20m) together with Krupp Industrie und Stahlbau to build the steel framework for a DM 1.7bn electric power station in West Berlin. The British company whose bid was DM 5m lower than the West German and other European bidders will have a 60 per cent share of the project.

The City of West Berlin, owner of Bewag, the Berlin electricity company, which awarded the contract, was displeased about Cleveland's success. It said "fair competition" by West German engineering companies had been hindered by the subsidising of British steel.

West Berlin tries to encourage West German companies to include Berlin-based companies in their contracts whenever possible, and Bewag's choice of Cleveland appeared to snub the West Germans.

Bewag said that although the big names in German engineering all bid on the project Cleveland won the major portion because of its 20 per cent lower bid and its reputation for quality.

"It may be that steel is subsidised in Britain," Bewag said "but that is a matter for the politicians and not for us."

Bewag recently bought machinery from a large German company which was made in Portugal. That's part of the international division of labour, a company official said.

Several of Cleveland's competitors complained loudly about British steel being subsidised. However, claims that German companies were not given a larger share of the work led Bewag to suggest Cleveland sign a co-operation agreement with a Berlin company which is to help build the steel framework. The fact that the new electric power station is to be located in the British sector of West Berlin, under control of France, the U.S. and the UK, played no role in the choice of Cleveland as the occupying powers in Berlin do not mix business with politics.

A joint venture was formed between Cleveland and Krupp to build the power station. Bewag said it gets a better price when companies bid individually.

Tyres for Toyota

TOKYO—Toyota Motor said it would import from this month 300 sets of tyres and 4,000 to 5,000 aluminium wheels monthly from West German and U.S. concerns, respectively, as part of its policy to increase car parts procurement abroad.

The tyres will be imported from Veith Pirelli, a leading West German tyre manufacturer, and the wheels from Rockwell International of the U.S.

Toyota plans to import parts, materials and equipment amounting to ¥31bn (£20m) next year. These imports are expected to reach ¥26bn this year, up 18.2 per cent over last year. Agencies

World Economic Indicators

	INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (1975=100)				% change on previous year
	Nov '82	Oct '82	Sept '82	Nov '81	
U.S.*	125.4	125.2	125.2	124.6	-7.3
UK	104.3	94.6	97.8	103.8	+1.0
W. Germany	111.4	95.8	98.0	110.3	-5.7
France	111.3	72.9	100.2	115.2	-1.2
Italy	127.9	97.6	122.5	135.6	-5.4
Netherlands	101.0	98.8	98.8	104.0	-1.9
Japan	150.2	148.5	149.2	149.4	+0.5
Belgium	99.1	80.0	117.7	103.8	-4.5

Source (except U.S. and Japan): Eurostat

JAKARTA COUNTERTRADE—12 MONTHS LATER

Indonesia stands fast despite problems

BY RICHARD COWPER IN JAKARTA

INDONESIA'S counterpurchase policy, introduced on New Year's Day last year, is in considerable disarray.

The scheme, designed to boost Indonesia's non-oil exports, so far has not proved a success. A small number of senior Indonesian officials are beginning to ask themselves whether the time, money and effort put into the new policy has been worthwhile.

The policy, which forces foreign companies winning Government non-oil tenders to import an equivalent value of Indonesian goods or face a stiff 50 per cent penalty, is being widely resisted by foreign Governments and companies. The result is that awards of Indonesian Government tenders have slowed to a trickle this year, and non-oil exports have continued to decline sharply in the face of the recession.

Last month, Mr Adam Malik, the Vice President, stated in public that he did not believe the counterpurchase policy would be successful. Opening new markets in Eastern Europe and China would, he said, be far better way of promoting non-oil exports than forcing countries to buy what they did not need.

Despite doubts about the policy there are signs the Government is contemplating dropping it.

Says one senior Government trade official closely involved in enforcing and monitoring the new policy: "With the world trade system breaking down it

may ultimately be the only way we can sell. Top-level cabinet commitment appears to be as strong as ever. Recently some have been discussing the possibility of including oil and gas exports as well."

Outwardly, the policy appears to have been unsuccessful. When it was first outlined by Mr Rudi Prastowo, the Trade Minister, in December 1980, the minister said the new policy would affect Government contracts worth as much as \$4.5bn a year. This figure was later revised downwards to around \$1.5bn. In the first 12 months since it came into operation just 10 counterpurchase contracts worth \$217m have been signed. Two contracts alone—a \$127m fertilizer deal signed in August and a \$40m railway car deal—accounted for more than 75 per cent of this total.

The policy has yet to make any noticeable impact on Indonesia's slumping non-oil and non-gas exports, which last year fell to an estimated 45 per cent of less than \$3.6bn. This is a 40 per cent decline from the \$6bn peak achieved as recently as 1980.

Department of Trade officials counter these arguments, saying it is still too early to tell if the policy has been a failure or not.

They argue there are other reasons for the small number of tenders signed last year under the counterpurchase policy.

First, they say, many contracts awarded were exempt from counterpurchase because they were put to tender in 1981

when the scheme did not apply. They add that the Indonesian Government has purposely slowed awards of new contracts because it is facing a sharp reduction in expected revenues due to a 15 per cent decline in oil exports.

The Department of Trade maintains that in the past six months many foreign companies have willingly submitted counterpurchase undertakings with their tender applications. The Ministry says that when these contracts are awarded over the next six months or so it will be a better time to judge the success of the policy.

More than a score of Government projects worth upwards of \$1bn appear to have received tenders which include counterpurchase commitments.

Because services, local content and the proportion financed by aid and soft loans are exempt, the counterpurchase element may be as little as a third of the total cost. Add to this the \$217m in counterpurchase deals already signed and the 12 month mid-1982-mid-1983 counterpurchase total may end up near \$550m. Even this, however, is a mere 12 per cent of the Government's original annual counterpurchase target.

Foreign governments and companies have continued to object vehemently to the stiff terms and conditions of Jakarta's policy. Many companies have either procrastinated or refused to submit irrevocable undertakings of commitment to abide by existing counterpurchase requirements, something they are legally obliged to do when submitting their tenders.



Mr Adam Malik, the Indonesian Vice-President, doubts success of counterpurchase policies

Many foreign companies are clearly prepared to live with some form of barter trade. What they object to is Indonesia's lack of flexibility in implementing the scheme, in particular the 100 per cent general, and the 100 per cent

counterpurchase coverage and 50 per cent penalty, in particular. Such terms, they say, are stiffer than almost anywhere else in the world.

Says one long-experienced commercial attaché at a Jakarta Embassy: "Counterpurchase is practised elsewhere with some success. Here it is in trouble. Where it works there is a commerciality to it—both sides have an interest in doing a deal. Here it is rigid, a one-sided affair."

"The 100 per cent coverage and 50 per cent penalty are totally out of line, even with Eastern Europe. Perhaps with a 10 per cent penalty and 30 per cent coverage we could start talking business. If they're going to have a counterpurchase policy at all then at least they should have one that is workable."

The Government argues such a relaxation would defeat the main purpose of the legislation. Many companies trading with Eastern Europe, for example, automatically pay the penalty.

Says Mr Darryl Salim, director for external trade relations at the Ministry for Trade and Co-operatives: "We are still fully committed to counterpurchase with 100 per cent coverage and a 50 per cent penalty."

"We're not interested in taxing government imports, what we want is a stepped-up outflow of Indonesian commodities."

Many believe it will not be counterpurchase but an end to the recession that will achieve such a goal.

Jakarta considers raising oil output level

By Richard Johns

INDONESIA, badly in need of cash, could be tempted in the next few months to raise its oil output after a year in which production fell to the lowest rate for a decade.

Such a rate would compare with the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries of 1.3m barrels per day. Notwithstanding the Government's commitment to defending OPEC's official reference price of \$24 per barrel, it is difficult to see how Indonesia can raise its output within the permitted limit without a further reduction in prices. In private officials do not rule out the possibility of a "downward re-adjustment" in the spring.

Last year overseas sales of crude oil and condensate declined 17 per cent to 315m barrels, or 874,000 b/d, from 383m barrels in 1981. This was the lowest export volume level since 1972.

The main reasons for the decline were falling demand for Indonesian oil from its main customers and the country's strict observance of its OPEC-imposed production quota of 1.3m b/d. The quota was imposed last April in a bid to shore up prices. Indonesia is Asia's largest oil exporter and its only OPEC member.

Preliminary output figures, also newly released, show that in 1982 Indonesia's oil production fell by almost 17 per cent to just over 488m barrels 11.14m b/d from 585m barrels in 1981.

Fears that export volume could fall even further this year prompted the Indonesian Government to reduce its official prices for the first time just two months ago. The average weighted price for the country's 20 grades of crude was reduced by 2.6 per cent from \$35.5 (£22) a barrel to \$34.59. Indonesia depends on oil for around 70 per cent of its gross export earnings and a similar proportion of government revenue. The current account balance of payments deficit in 1982-83 is approaching a high of \$8bn and budget revenues could fall short of expectations by as much as 20 per cent.

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SHIPPING REPORT

Owners expect market to improve this year

BY ANDREW FISHER, SHIPPING CORRESPONDENT

WHERE ARE WORLD shipping markets headed for in 1983? Owners who expect anything at all from the new year are pinning their hopes on a gradual revival in the U.S. economy. With the usual time lag of about six months, the shipping scene could then start to perk up next autumn.

The past year has been a sick joke for the industry, with rates flat in the recession and tonnage still being delivered to add to the general surplus.

"The fact," said Galbraith Wrightson in its last weekly report of the year, "1982 was

probably the most traumatic year that tanker owners have had to endure."

Nor was the report too cheerful about general industry sentiment for 1983. "What is equally depressing is the suggestion that the position in 1983 will be identical."

Galbraith did see an outside chance that supply and demand could become more balanced this year, allowing owners with modern tonnage some profits.

After all, some 26m deadweight tons of tankers have been scrapped in the first 11 months of the year. If this pace is kept up, "it will

hopefully reinforce our view that rates may start to rise from September onwards."

Any marked reduction in oil prices could generate new business by allowing traders to try and agree long-term contracts.

E. A. Gibson Shipbrokers, taking a more pessimistic line, reckoned it could take two or three years for any revival. Even then, scrapping would need to be doubled from present levels.

Around 70m dwt of tankers are laid-up, with a further 10m dwt idly awaiting business in the Gulf. Most demand in the last few days has come from

European and Far Eastern charterers, with demand from the U.S. down.

Tugs ready to help in salvage

TWO DUTCH tugs and a pontoon arrived off Felixstowe yesterday to help refloat the 4,263-ton Townsend Thoresen freight ferry European Gateway, which capsized in a collision off the Suffolk port two weeks ago with the loss of six lives.

Ship deal for W. Germany

HAMBURG—Three West German shipbuilders have signed contracts to build four frigates for the Turkish navy, according to Blohm and Voss, the Hamburg Shipyard serving as official spokesmen for the group. The West German companies were not prepared to disclose delivery times or financial details of the order.

The two other shipbuilders are Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft of Kiel and Thyssen Rheinisch Stahl Technik, the Düsseldorf-based company held by the Thyssen industrial group.

The Blohm and Voss official said two frigates would be built in West German shipyards with the others to be constructed in Turkey under West German supervision. AP-DJ

UK NEWS

'Sharp drop' for N. Sea oil production by 1990

BY CARLA RAPAPORT

NORTH Sea oil production will peak in 1985 at 2.5m barrels per day (b/d), but will then drop precipitously by 1990, according to a Phillips & Drew forecast.

The latest economic bulletin by the London stockbrokers predicts that output will fall to 1.4m b/d by 1990 - even allowing for marginal fields coming on stream - and this will cause "major problems" for the Government after the next election. The erosion of North Sea oil's benefit to Britain's balance of payments is expected to start in the second half of the decade. The peak benefit to the current account is forecast for 1985 at around £12.3bn (£20.7bn) at 1982 prices, Phillips & Drew say this figure will drop to £7.5bn by 1990.

The fall-off in government revenue from North Sea oil is expected

to start more quickly, with the stockbrokers predicting government receipts to peak in fiscal 1983/84. From a high of nearly £10bn in that year, Phillips & Drew estimate the Government's take will fall to £8.5bn, at 1982 prices, by 1990/91.

This development will make it progressively more difficult for any Government to reduce the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product without further large cuts in public expenditure or increases in taxation, according to Phillips & Drew.

"The profile we present (of North Sea oil) will cause major problems for the next Government, whatever the political party in power," say the stockbrokers.

The production projections are made on the basis of present oil

technology, the present oil tax system and the continued absence of a depletion policy. Phillips & Drew say that the relaxation of any of these underlying assumptions would not make a major difference to their output forecasts.

The study points out that the North Sea is a mature area by oil exploration standards and the chances of finding another major field "must be slender."

"Unless the oil price moves up dramatically or the taxation of fields is made less severe," say Phillips & Drew, "the exploitation of marginal fields will probably have to await the discovery of less expensive development methods, such as floating production systems." The stockbrokers describe such technological breakthroughs as "very much a wild card" in their forecasts.

Monopolies member quits over bid ruling

By David Churchill, Consumer Affairs Correspondent

A SENIOR member of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, Professor Andrew Bain of Strathclyde University, has resigned in protest at the Government's controversial decision to allow Chartered Consolidated to go ahead against the commission's advice.

His resignation - in a strongly critical letter to Lord Cockfield, the Trade Secretary - comes as pressure is mounting on the Government to make a statement on its merger policy after a spate of controversial decisions recently.

Senior Trade department officials are putting together a policy document of the various options open to Lord Cockfield, but no firm statement is expected until the spring.

Prof Bain was one of the four members of the commission who recommended in a majority report that the Chartered Consolidated bid was against the public interest. However, the Government accepted the view from the minority report - which included the commission's chairman Sir Godfrey Le Quesne - that the merger should be allowed to proceed.

This was the first time in nearly 18 years of merger control that a commission's recommendation had been overturned by the Government.

In addition, Lord Cockfield came in for sharp criticism in the House of Commons when it was revealed that he owned some 2,500 shares in Chartered Consolidated, even though he had not dealt in these shares since becoming a minister last April.

In his letter of resignation, Prof Bain is critical of the allegations made in the minority report that the majority's verdict was based on only "general possibilities and risks" to the public interest. He says that this allegation was "unwarranted" because the majority concluded that damage to the public interest was "probable."

Prof Bain acknowledges that the Government has a right to overturn a commission recommendation. "But I hold that this right was not intended to be used arbitrarily," he says.

Channel link study finalised by banks

BY HAZEL DUFFY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FIVE UK and French banks are completing a six-month study into the feasibility of financing a fixed link across the Channel.

Their report, which is expected to be delivered to the two governments towards the end of January, will be an important step in defining the opportunities for financing a fixed Channel link by the private sector.

The financial study, which has been funded by the banks, was requested by the two governments last June, following publication of a two-nation technical study.

The major requirement, as far as the banks are concerned, is to find ways in which a link can be financed without resort to public funds, or guarantees which would be seen by the Treasury as a call on public money.

The study has looked at all the links which have been proposed, including a single rail tunnel, a wider tunnel which could include a road, and the various proposals for bridges, and bridges/tunnels.

The lowest cost proposal is the single rail tunnel, but this raises problems as guarantees would have to be provided on levels of traffic

from the government-owned railways.

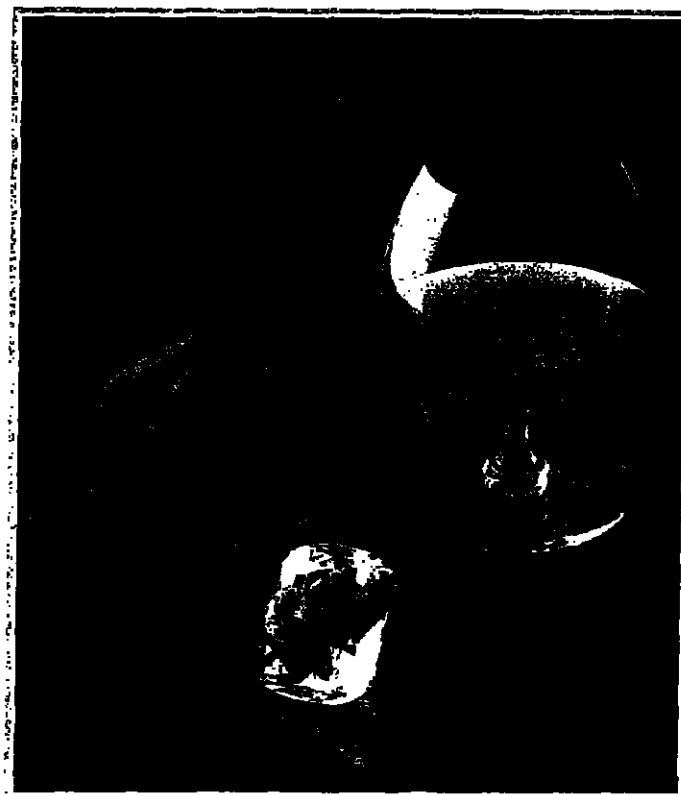
The double tunnel, while more attractive in terms of the potential level of traffic, would be more difficult to finance at the outset. An alternative would be to adopt a phased approach, allowing for expansion to a double tunnel at a later date.

The team from the five banks, Midland, National Westminster, Credit Lyonnais, Banque Nationale de Paris, and Banque Indosuez, has come up against the obvious problems presented by a two-nation infrastructure project. However it will put forward proposals which might meet with the approval of the governments.

A decision by the UK Government, however, is unlikely before an election. The whole project has diminished in terms of Cabinet support since the first meeting between Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, and President Mitterrand revived the idea.

The French government, faced with financial problems, is now interested in financing a fixed Channel link on the national and international bond markets.

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UK NEWS

Lloyd lost argument over Japan

THE MINUTES disclose that Lord Thorneycroft, who was then Mr Peter Thorneycroft, president of the Board of Trade, persuaded the Cabinet not to support Japan's application to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

He won his argument in spite of strenuous opposition from Selwyn Lloyd, then Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

Lord Thorneycroft said the entry of a low cost producer like Japan would lead to a general raising of tariffs and create special difficulties for the Commonwealth.

Britain's aim at the forthcoming meeting of Gatt should be to get the issue deferred, if Japan were admitted it would cause "agitation" in Lancashire, where feeling was already running high because of unemployment in the textile industry.

Selwyn Lloyd said that to vote against Japan would be to get the worst of all worlds since Japan was likely to get a majority vote in Gatt anyway. It would be better for Britain to avoid action which would reveal its suspicions of Japan.

Churchill, who was not at the Cabinet meeting, sent a message saying he was opposed to Britain supporting Japanese membership of Gatt.

John Hunt reports on the 1952 Cabinet papers just released

Butler acted to prevent 'major calamity for sterling'

THE STRUGGLE of the Conservative Government to overcome a major economic crisis involving a massive drain on Britain's gold and dollar reserves is the dominant theme of the secret Cabinet papers for 1952 released under the 30-year rule.

In a memorandum to the Cabinet in January of that year Rab Butler, Chancellor of the Exchequer, disclosed that reserves were down to £500m and warned that Britain faced a "major dimensions" crisis.

"The rate of loss of gold and dollars is continuing," he said. "It is quite clear that only the most powerful and convincing action can prevent a major calamity for sterling."

The Government, which had

been elected the previous autumn, faced a year of austerity with rationing of food and other commodities still in force.

The crisis discussions in Cabinet bear a remarkable resemblance to today's economic arguments. Butler was continually trying to increase exports, reduce imports and contain public expenditure, particularly the steeply rising defence budget.

In January he produced an emergency austerity package followed by a tough March budget.

The papers disclose a prolonged row in Cabinet when Butler insisted that food rationing would have to be cut to reduce the import bill. His colleagues protested that this

would mean the population would be worse fed than at any time during the war and that production in the factories would be adversely affected.

Eventually the Chancellor was defeated but, as a token gesture to impress the public, the sweet ration was cut to 4 oz a week.

There was also a fierce duel between Butler and Harold Macmillan, who was then Housing Minister. The Chancellor wanted to cut the housing programme which was well on its way to achieving Macmillan's well-publicised target of 300,000 new dwellings a year by 1953.

Butler argued that it involved an "unwarrantable diversion of resources from exports." Macmillan, however, strongly

defended his plans and pointed out that cancellation and delay would have serious political consequences.

Eventually Macmillan won the battle when the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, intervened on his side and bluntly told Butler that it would be "most unwise" to slash housing.

A long memorandum from the Chancellor on the economic situation has an uncannily familiar ring today. "Our exports are dangerously down on our budget estimates," he wrote. "They must have first claim on any additional resources we may have available."

"Only by this we can get away from the succession of balance of payments crises which have marked the British

economy since the war."

With extraordinary prescience, he continued: "Moreover, investment in recent years has been kept far below the level which is necessary to modernise our industry and keep up with our main competitors. Already we are losing contracts to Germany and Japan."

He reminds his colleagues that Conservative supporters expected the Government to reduce all kinds of public expenditure and to make a start on cutting "the intolerable tax burden on industry."

Butler emphasised that defence would have to take a share of the cuts in the following year.

● Butler: emergency package

Storm over Italian miners

IN APRIL the Cabinet gave in to demands from the National Union of Mineworkers and halted the recruitment of Italian labour for British pits. More than 5,000 Italians had been brought in and this had led to protests and stoppages at some Yorkshire collieries.

There were allegations in the Press that the miners were jealous at the success the young Italians were having with local girls.

It seemed to be an early instance of a Tory Government backing down in the face of united action by the mineworkers. Lord Leathers, secretary for the co-ordination of transport, fuel and power, was particularly scathing in his remarks about the Yorkshire miners.

In a bitter memorandum to the Cabinet he declared: "When the miners, particularly the Yorkshire miners, feel they have a grievance no amount of persuasion from their leaders or from the Government will budge them."

He observed that when it suited the NUM executive, as in wage negotiations, they insisted on national bargaining. When faced with awkward emergencies such as the row over the Italians they suddenly discovered the decisions had to be left to the local NUM branches.

Eden considered use of force four years before Suez crisis

THERE ARE clear indications in the Cabinet papers that four years before the Suez crisis Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, was considering the possibility of using military force if the Egyptian Government tried to block the canal.

In July he wrote a long memorandum on the subject. At that time Britain was negotiating with the Egyptian Government after a series of

violent clashes when Egyptian "auxiliaries" infiltrated the Canal Zone which was occupied by British forces. In January there had been serious anti-British riots in Cairo in which 10 Britons were killed.

The memo from Eden shows the passionate importance he already attached to the safety of the canal and reveals his deep suspicion of Egyptian motives.

He wrote: "Steps must be taken to safeguard the free transit of the Suez Canal irrespective of whether or not current bilateral discussions with Egypt make headway."

An ill-disposed Egyptian Government might at any time try to restrict or stop traffic through the Suez Canal. A stoppage of free trade through the canal would have a disastrous effect upon British trade with

all countries east of Suez, including members of the Commonwealth. The canal is of more importance to the world today than ever before."

He admits that attempts by Britain and France to get the support of other world powers to force the canal open in an emergency had met little success.

Eden felt it was essential that the maritime powers which used

the canal should reach an agreement to forestall any action by the Egyptians. "If diplomatic methods failed he suggested that Britain should consider the use of force, with France, Italy and the Netherlands to place warships at the entrance of the canal and that naval personnel should be used to keep the waterway open."

If these measures proved ineffective Britain and its Euro-

pean partners should "consider what further action could be jointly undertaken to bear upon the Egyptian Government."

A note was sent to the British ambassador in Paris instructing him to make fresh approaches to the French Government on the possibility of joint measures. The note emphasised: "It is essential that the purpose of your approach be kept secret."

BUSINESSMAN'S DIARY

UK TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Date	Title	Venue
Jan 5-9	Caravan, Camping, Holiday and Travel Exhibition (0272 650608)	Bristol Exhibition Centre
Jan 5-16	International Boat Show (0832 54511)	Earls Court
Jan 7-15	Daily Mail Sports Show (026313 34433)	Canard Hotel
Jan 10-13	International Toy Fair (01-226 6663)	Harrogate
Jan 10-13	Amusement Trades Exhibition (01-233 4107)	Olympia
Jan 11-14	Catering Equipment and Food Exhibitions—CEFE (01-339 5011)	NEC, Birmingham
Jan 18-21	Which Computer? Show (01-747 3131)	NEC, Birmingham
Jan 23-27	International Light Show (05884 658)	Olympia
Jan 25-27	Hotel Catering and Food Show Exhibition (01-222 684)	Bournemouth
Jan 28-29	London Contract Flooring and Wallcovering Exhibition (Surrey) (0276 74957)	Canard International Hotel
Jan 29-Feb 2	British Toy and Hobby Fair (01-701 7127)	Earls Court
Feb 6-10	International Sports Fair (0263 7354)	NEC, Birmingham
Feb 9-10	Business Equipment and Services Exhibition (Bournemouth) (0202 20833)	Bournemouth
Feb 13-16	International Men's and Boys' Wear Exhibition—IMBGX (021 706 6707)	Olympia

OVERSEAS TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Date	Title	Venue
Jan 10-13	International Hotel and Catering Industries Trade Fair (01-228 2890)	Düsseldorf
Jan 12-15	Home Furnishing Trade Fair (0273 3548)	Frankfurt
Jan 13-17	International Exhibition of Supplies and Materials for the Furniture Trade (01-439 3964)	Paris
Jan 13-18	International Lighting Exhibition (01-439 3964)	Paris
Jan 19-22	International Electronic Packaging and Production Equipment Exhibition (01-439 3964)	Tokyo
Jan 19-25	International Toy Exhibition (01-439 3964)	Paris
Jan 24-28	International Record and Music Publishing Market MIDEM (01-499 2317)	Cannes
Feb 5-9	Middle East Electricity and Electronics Exhibition (01-335 8200)	Jeddah
Feb 9-12	International Fair for Household Appliances Fittings and Components—DOMOTECNICA (01-730 4845)	Cologne
Feb 11-14	International Exhibition of Glassware, Ceramics, Software and Gifts—MACCAF (01-242 7839)	Milan
Feb 21-25	Environmental Pollution Control Techniques ENVITECH (01-730 4845)	Amsterdam

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES

Date	Title	Venue
Jan 11	Pro Ned with FT: non-executive directors—how they can help your business (01-621 1355)	Midland Hotel, Manchester
Jan 13	Kayon International: Rebuilding Industrial Relations in the '80s and '90s (01-457 3418)	Hilton Hotel
Jan 13-14	Oyez IBC: Effective negotiation (01-236 4080)	Portman Hotel, W1
Jan 14	ESS: how to dispute revenue decisions (Uppingham 087 283) 2711	Bowater Centre, Centre, SW1
Jan 17-18	FT Conference: New business ideas—the sector profession (01-621 1355)	Inter Continental Hotel, W1
Jan 18	ESC: Corporate finance now (Uppingham 087 283) 2711	Glaizers Hall, SE1
Jan 19	Oyez IBC: The better business—have the questions been answered? (01-236 4080)	Royal Garden Hotel, W8
Jan 19	Macfarlane: Better media value for advertisers (01-724 2588)	Press Centre, EC4
Jan 19	The Henley Centre for Forecasting: Leisure futures (01-353 9951)	Inn on the Park Hotel, W1
Jan 19-20	FT Conference: International property markets (01-621 1355)	Inter Continental Hotel, W1
Jan 25	OFDI and Seminar Services Int: U.S. anti-trust policy today—its impact on European corporations (Swiss) (41 21) 20.68.50	Brussels
Jan 26	Biba: The security of insurance and reinsurance companies (01-623 9043)	City Conference Centre, EC3
Jan 26	BeP: So you think you want to move overseas? (01-464 5418)	Barbican, EC2
Jan 28	Oyez IBC Test marketing in concept and practice (01-236 4080)	Princess Anne Theatre, W1
Jan 28-29	FT Conference: International and satellite broadcasting (01-621 1355)	Inter Continental Hotel, W1
Jan 28-29	RRG: An introduction to insurance marketing (01-236 2175)	Royal Horseguards Hotel
Feb 2	The Henley Centre for Forecasting: Freight transport (01-353 9951)	Inn on the Park Hotel, W1
Feb 3	Agra Europe: Outlook '83—2nd European outlook conference (Tunbridge Wells) (0862) 32813	Hilton International, Park Lane
Feb 7-11	RRG: Advanced reinsurance practice (01-236 2175)	Royal Westminster, Hill, London
Feb 15	Oyez IBC: The litigation letter seminar—recent developments and future trends in litigation practice and procedure (01-236 4080)	Royal Lancaster Hotel, W2
Feb 21-22	FT conference: Automated manufacturing—adopt or decline? (01-621 1355)	Royal Lancaster Hotel, W2

Anyone wishing to attend any of the above events is advised to telephone the organisers to ensure that there has been no change in the details published.

Financial Times Conferences

INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MARKETS

London—January 19 and 20, 1983

The international economic recession has had important implications for the worldwide property industry. This major conference will review developments in the property markets, concentrate on areas of greatest potential for investment and on medium term changes in the industry's structure. The distinguished speakers from the UK, Europe, the United States, Canada and Hong Kong will include: Mr John R. White, President, Landauer Associates Inc; Mr James A. D. Croft, Partner, Richard Ellis; Mr Trevor Edwards, Managing Director, The Hongkong Land Company Ltd; Mr Nigel Mobbs, Chairman and Managing Director, Slough Estates.

AUTOMATED MANUFACTURING—ADOPT OR DECLINE?

London, 21 and 22 February, 1983

When, how and even whether to automate are key questions facing senior management in industry today. Developments in manufacturing technologies have made it possible to automate virtually any production process. The implications in terms of competitiveness, flexibility and cost benefits are far reaching. This major conference will be addressed by some of the world leaders in industrial robotics and automated manufacturing processes including: Mr Donald K. Grierson, Senior Vice-President and Group Executive, General Electric; Mr D. H. Roberts, Director of Research, The General Electric Company plc; Mr Frank T. Curtin, Group Vice-President, Cincinnati Milacron Inc; Mr Toshiko Koga, Managing Director, Fanuc Mechatronics SA.

All enquiries should be addressed to:

The Financial Times Limited

Conference Organisation

Minister House, Arthur Street

London EC4R 9AX

Tel: 01-621 1355

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Thatcher receives Franks report

BY PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

WEAKNESSES in the co-ordination and assessment in Whitehall of intelligence are expected to be blamed by the Franks committee for the Government's failure to anticipate the Argentine invasion of the Falklands last March.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, received on Friday a copy of the 100,000-word report by the five-strong committee under Lord Franks.

The report is expected to be published in the middle of this month. The Government has said the report will appear in full, apart from any sections regarded as too sensitive on security grounds.

The committee has seen as its main aim the establishment of the facts about what happened in the weeks leading up to the invasion.

Senior politicians who have

given evidence to the committee believe the report's main emphasis will be on identifying weaknesses in the machinery of government rather than on seeking individual scapegoats.

Members of the committee are said to appreciate the problems for ministers of having to face a multitude of current pressures against

imprecise warnings of invasion which appeared urgent and specific only in retrospect.

Nevertheless, the report is expected to criticise some of the operations of the Foreign Office in London in light of a number of warnings from the British embassy in Buenos Aires about a possible invasion.

There may be unfavourable comment about the joint intelligence committee, which co-ordinates the tentacles of intelligence gathering within the Cabinet Office, for failing to

provide a sufficiently clear warning.

Mrs Thatcher will be lucky to escape censure in view of her central role as chairman of the Cabinet's Overseas and Defence Committee which receives these intelligence assessments.

Among the recommendations expected by MPs are proposals for an improvement in the machinery in Whitehall for the assessment of intelligence.

With hardly a break for the holidays, Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for West Lothian, has returned to the fray as the Government's most persistent critic over the Falklands. In a statement he argues that the affected ministers should be shown the Franks report in full.

He urges Mr John Nott, the retiring Defence Secretary, to give his version of the final days of the dispute.

Reshuffle decision soon

BY OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

THE PRIME MINISTER will this week complete decisions on the ministerial reshuffle following the retirement of Mr John Nott, Defence Secretary.

An announcement is likely towards the end of this week or on Monday.

Mrs Thatcher, who is at Chequers, is expected to have final consultations with Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary; Mr Cecil Parkinson, chairman of the Conservative Party; and Mr Michael Joplin, Chief Whip.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Environment Secretary, is strong favourite to take over from Mr Nott, not least because of Mr Thatcher's desire to have an effective spokesman against the campaigners for unilateral nuclear disarmament.

The other possibilities are Mr Peter Walker, Agriculture Minister, and Mr George

Younger, Scottish Secretary.

The most likely candidate for promotion to the Cabinet is Mr Tom King, Local Government Minister, who could take Mr Heseltine's job if he was moved.

Changes at Cabinet level are expected to be limited, although at least a dozen moves are expected in the medium and junior ranks with the retirement of some ministers of state, the promotion and swapping around of some promising parliamentary secretaries and the entry into the Government of some younger MPs.

The political balance of the Cabinet and the Government as a whole is not expected to alter. At Westminster, there will be particularly close interest to see whether Mr Ian Gow, the Prime Minister's parliamentary private secretary, becomes a minister, or whether he will remain in Downing Street until the election.

RACING

BY DOMINIC WIGAN

THERE has been a disappointing turn out for the Cok Car Company sponsored races at Cheltenham.

The company, which sponsored the Grand National for one year, has only six horses in the feature race, the Cok Car Diamond Chase. The supporting Cok Car Platinum Novices Chase and Cok Car Corinium Hurdle attracted only four and seven runners, respectively.

Dickinson and Winter have nearly succeeded in diminishing affairs at the major meetings so far this season, and they both field good hopes for the Diamond Chase in Observe and Prominent Artist. The first-named justified a flood of early ante-post money by holding the subsequent King George VI winner, Wayward Lad, in the Kennedy Construction Gold Cup at Royal Ascot last week. Observe and Prominent Artist, however, neither strikes me as a good bet to best Combs Ditch, who has continued to encourage David Elsworth since coming down when closing on Observe in the Kennedy Chase here.

After the Cok Diamond Chase, there will, I suspect, be few prepared to oppose Sheikh Ali Abu Khamis's Deep Wealth in the Panama Cigar Hurdle qualifier. The Upland's six-year-old could not have done better on his debut at Newbury six weeks ago. Allowed into the lead at only the final flight in the closing division of the Spec Novices Hurdle, Deep Wealth justified Richard Lintley's unshakable confidence by putting seven lengths between himself and Isaac Newton.

Deep Wealth, the first foal of an unraced half-sister to Floating Found and Fifty Dollars More, should outclass his six opponents before going on to eclipse the efforts of those illustrious half-brothers.

CHELTENHAM

12.30—Torbale**

1.40—Goldspur**

2.15—Combs Ditch***

2.50—Deep Wealth

ATK

2.15—The Engineer

Letters to the Editor

Ominous gaps in London's fleet of flagship offices

From Mr J. Heddle, MP

Sir,—As more and more major companies leave their London headquarters, ominous gaps are appearing in the fleet of flagship offices which have been a central part of the capital's business fabric since the last war. Blue Circle, ICI, British Aluminium, GKN and Commercial Union are among the household names, some or all of whose London staff will soon be on the move, joining the ranks already set by British Steel and British Leyland.

If de-centralisation continues, commuting costs rise, and office equipment continues to yield to the micro-technological revolution, there must be a real possibility of a serious over supply of central London offices. It is a matter which deserves the urgent attention of the Department of the Environment, the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the CBI and the trades unions.

Some of the causes of a movement which has gathered pace during the last quarter of 1982 are not hard to identify. Rent, although lagging behind inflation in recent years, are still at high levels and the rates levied on the business community by the major profit tax councils can make the total expense of occupying centrally-

located space no longer acceptable.

And the continuing recession, and the demand for smaller suites of a far higher standard. Other firms theoretically committed to moving may find that conditions have turned against them—if they cannot either sublet or assign without incurring heavy penalties.

But we have now witnessed the beginnings of a major shift in the framework of the capital's services sector. Will there be a dramatic decline in the demand for offices in London? To some extent the need for better standard of accommodation will balance the space left empty by a decentralised workforce, but in a bleak view of the future it is not difficult to envisage a data bank on magnetic tapes held in a provincial office replacing today's ranks of bulky filing cabinets housed in extremely expensive offices. Nor should the knock-on effects of the computer revolution be underestimated. Large offices are the hub of local business activity involving restaurants, shops, banks and ancillary services such as cleaning and parking. When a major employer leaves, can satellites for long survive in a void?

John Heddle,

House of Commons, SW1.

Policies for steel

From Mr G. Waller, MP

Sir,—No, the statement on December 20 by Patrick Jenkin does not mark a shift in the Government's policy towards the nationalised industries, as you claim in your leader "Policies again in steel" on December 21.

In the current crisis facing steelmakers worldwide, and with a European steel cartel governing production and prices, there is no free market within which commercial decisions can be dictated by market conditions alone. Let us hope that a free market can be restored by 1985. But in the meantime Governments have to make decisions. And, as your leader of only a few weeks ago (December 1) rightly said, a plan drawn up in the depths of a recession could turn out to be too pessimistic. In that same earlier leader you went on to argue: "Given the uncertainties about the future, a degree of caution about permanent cutbacks is appropriate."

The decision now announced by Mr Jenkin reflects precisely the caution which you were advocating. But no guarantee about future prospects for any plants were given; he made it absolutely clear that any such prospects must depend on both future markets and the efficiency of operations at the plants. Some delay in British Steel Corporation reaching profitability was inevitable, given the current state of steel demand, but the Government has done its best to provide BSC with clear planning guidelines for a revised timetable for the return to break-even.

Consistency is a virtue which not only Ministers but also newspapers should learn to practise.

Gary Waller,

House of Commons, SW1.

Initiating an acceleration of elapsed time

From Dr L. Mackintosh

Sir,—Can it be, one is bound to ask, that this august journal, the FT, revered by devotees such as myself as a source of information of unquestionable authenticity, has, to put it mildly, goofed? Could it possibly be true that Elaine Williams, the excellence of whose articles on electronics I have earned her an enviable journalistic reputation, among the connoisseurs, in her article on the anniversary of the transistor (December 23), has blown it?

Let us examine the evidence. Her article highlights the significance of the 25th anniversary of the invention of the transistor, and her concentration on the number 25 is repeated and emphasised in rare FT typographical style. And yet, in 1957, Prof Schockley, myself and a few others (with some formality) addressed the Royal Society in London on the general topic of the silver anniversary of the transistor.

Did we all have it wrong, I wonder, or had Schockley et al discovered second sight as well

as the transistor in 1948? Admittedly, purely simplistic arithmetic reasoning does not lend much support to Elaine Williams' proposition. After all, 82 minus 57 really still is 25 (isn't it?), or has the drift to the binary system screwed that up, too? But, my calculator supports me and, with the big swing to new technology in the newspaper industry, it seems unlikely that, somewhere in the intensively professional environment of the FT, there lurks a similar electronic aid to which she would have access.

No! Clearly the answer must lie elsewhere. Most likely, in my view, is an editorial decision at the highest level of the FT to begin a profound campaign of time compression. Based on a combination of the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle (if you know what the time is, you must be lost) and the growing technology of bandwidth compression, and based at the relatively slow speed with which the world's economy is going to hell in a wheelbarrow, the FT appears now to be trying to initiate an acceleration of elapsed time.

There could, of course, be great merit to this concept. Since time is, as everyone knows, merely a device to prevent everything happening at once, we could derive great benefit from being released from its tyranny. (Imagine, for example, the enormous political, economic and social benefits which might ensue from compressing the length of "Dallas" by c. 28 per cent.)

The most likely conclusion, therefore, is that the FT is launching the New (Watch) Movement of the 1980s, for drawing attention to which I can perhaps now await the usual public recognition.

The pursuit of scientific objectivity, however, does require me to point out the existence of an alternative explanation. Which is that Mrs Williams and her editors may possibly have been celebrating for too long (10 years?) the advent of their 4-day 1983 Christmas holiday.

Dr Ian M. Mackintosh,

Ian Mackintosh International,

Mackintosh House,

Napier Road, Luton, Beds.

Grandad would have approved

From Mr M. White

UK NEWS

LABOUR

Coach operators' group splinters

By Hazel Duffy, Transport Correspondent

BRITISH COACHWAYS, the group of independent coach operators formed following the deregulation of coach services just over two years ago, has almost disintegrated.

Some of the original companies are still trying to find a site for a London coach park, but the concept of the marketing enterprise now has little support. The group was formed to take advantage of the Government's decision to stimulate competition among coach operators and to compete against the state-owned National Express.

British Coachways started operations from a site behind King's Cross station in London. The group then moved to a nearby hotel, but this base has been closed since October and the operators have scattered to a number of sites around central London.

Some express routes are still being operated under the British Coachways livery, but individual members acknowledge they are stressing their own names.

Six operators remain members of the group, running express services between London and

Glasgow, Swansea, Hamilton, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, and Bournemouth.

Part of the problem in maintaining an effective national group has been the absence of a permanent coach station in London to rival that of National Express at Victoria. The highly individual nature of independent coach operators has also made it difficult to get agreement on fundamental marketing issues.

Statistics which would measure the success of express coach deregulation are nearly impossible to obtain, partly because individual operators guard their traffic figures jealously. It would appear, however, that the main beneficiary has been National Express, which responded quickly to the fare cuts initiated by the independents after deregulation to keep its market share.

The Transport Department is helping the independents in their search for a London site, but their efforts are frustrated by the resistance of local authorities, worried that coaches from the Continent would be attracted to such a site and create overnight parking problems.

Left gains more power on ISTC

By Brian Groom

ELECTIONS for a new executive council of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation have underlined the left's ascendancy in what used to be one of Britain's most right-wing unions.

The last elections a year ago gave a majority of one or two seats to a loose collection of "hard" and "soft" left-wingers. That appears to have increased by another two or three seats on the new executive, which takes office in February.

However, the ISTC left is not so organised as in some unions, and voting patterns are not consistent. The left's gains are believed to be in the "soft" category.

The so-called "hard" left numbers five. It includes Mr John Lingham from Teesside, who will take office as the first left-wing president for years.

The elections bring six new faces to the 21-member executive. Previously, one-third of the executive retired each year, but this year all the seats were up for election in a ballot because of a change of representation to geographical divisions from trade groups.

The new executive will serve for three years. This means it will appoint the successor to Mr Bill Sims, the union's right-wing general secretary, due to retire in about two years.

Insurance companies seek to limit pay rises

By Brian Groom, Labour Staff

INSURANCE COMPANIES are attempting to reach pay settlements substantially below those of last year, against a background of falling inflation and stiff competition within the industry.

Some observers believe the 1982-83 round of pay deals, now under way, will average about 5.5 per cent. This compares with an 8 to 10 per cent range in 1981-82, within which many settlements were clustered around 8.5 per cent.

Insurance negotiations are watched closely in the English clearing banks, where some executives are thinking of a 5 or 6 per cent settlement next April, compared with 8.5 per cent last spring.

Officials of the two main in-

surance unions, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) and the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu), are to meet to discuss a united front against what they claim is a co-ordinated attempt by some major composite companies to keep settlements to 4.5 or 5 per cent.

However, there seems little liking for industrial action among staff, who are worried about job security.

Eagle Star has offered to increase salary scales for its 5,500 staff by 4.5 per cent from January 1, after a settlement last year of 7 per cent plus a 2.75 per cent lump sum. Bifu's executive will decide this month whether to put the offer to

ballot. Bifu has registered a formal failure to agree with Guardian Royal Exchange over an offer worth 5 per cent on salaries plus 11 fringe items. The next step is a meeting with the board.

ASTMS has received a 4.5 per cent offer at General Accident, which last year paid 8 per cent increases plus a 1.75 per cent lump sum. ASTMS' section executive is to decide its next step this month. Members of the other GA union, the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff, has voted to accept the offer.

ASTMS also claims that been taken for the second a concerted approach has year running by the

Scottish life offices, where offers of 5 to 6 per cent have been made. The union is co-ordinating its response, so offers are not accepted until the general level has been pushed as high as possible.

Refuge reached 7.5 per cent for chief office and field staff from October 1 (including shared savings from an efficiency exercise), and has won longer notice periods in return. But this looks likely to be higher than most deals in 1982-83.

Negotiations at Royal Insurance are to resume after an argument over exclusion of employees in a subsidiary. The company seems likely to maintain its agreement to regulate salaries in line with the cost of living.

Talks move on shipping labour pool

By Our Labour Staff

THE National Union of Seamen and the General Council of British Shipping are to begin talks in the next few days on the future of the Merchant Navy Establishment—the industry's labour pool, which dates from the First World War.

During recent pay talks the NUS suggested an examination of the system in the light of modern trends, including increased decasualisation.

The union is also worried about the number of coastal shipping companies seeking to deferate from the CCBS, which the NUS attributes partly to the cost of taking seamen from the MNE "pool" and returning them.

The opportunity for a review has been welcomed by the General Council, which is concerned about the high cost of the scheme. MNE spending accounted for an unprecedented £12m of the CCBS £14.5m budget last year. It covers administration, top-up of unemployment pay and redundancies.

Finances were strained by the record 2,500 request for redundancy last year—five times the 1981 level. This is in spite of the industry's modest severance terms, and indicates a degree of despair among unemployed officers and ratings about finding new work in shipping.

Scargill denies harassing mineworkers' London staff

By Our Labour Staff

MR ARTHUR SCARGILL, left-wing president of the National Union of Mineworkers, last night denied suggestions that he was harassing his London staff in an attempt to make them quit before the union moves its national headquarters to his native Yorkshire.

The claim was made by Mr John Varley, president of the NUM's white-collar section, which represents the 63 head office staff. He is to discuss a

list of complaints with Mr Scargill on Friday. "Arthur is trying to foul means to make sure no-one goes from London to Sheffield when the union moves. We believe it is a plot to avoid severance payments and replace staff with his own like-minded friends."

Mr Scargill said he was appalled by the suggestion. "Each member of staff has been asked on at least three occasions if they wish to move

Telecom and postal unions reopen amalgamation talks

By David Goodhart, Labour Staff

FORMAL amalgamation talks have been reopened between the Civil and Public Services Association, Posts and Telecom Section—which represents about 42,000 staff in British Telecom and the Post Office—and the Post Office Engineering Union, the largest union in BT.

Previous attempts at amalgamation broke down in 1981 when a POEU conference rejected it, but officials in both unions now believe the chances

of arriving at suitable merger terms are much greater.

The CPSA, P and T section, will want to keep some autonomy in branch structure and financial organisation. A final merger agreement is likely to be put to the annual conference of the 130,000 strong POEU in the summer.

The POEU is also in talks with the 20,000-strong Society of Post Office Executives.

FT GROCERY PRICES INDEX

Seasonal increases less than expected

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

THE Financial Times Grocery Prices Index increased slightly in December as prices of fresh produce rose in the weeks before Christmas.

The increase, however, was less than had been expected due to the sharp rise in the index the previous month.

The December index stood at 147.62 compared with 146.65 in November. This means that after several successive falls in the monthly index it has now started to increase. However, such a trend is normal this time of the year as the wintry weather and higher demand seasonally leads to higher prices for fresh produce.

The fresh fruit and vegetable section of the "shopping basket" had the highest increase of any section of the basket in December. It rose in cost from £26.59 in November to £27.45 last month.

The increase would have been higher but for the plentiful supply of produce due to the relatively good summer and autumn weather this year. The English and French dessert apple crop, for example, rose

by 19 per cent this year—which has led to apple prices being about 5p per pound cheaper than at this time last year.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau reports that quality and supply of clementines, satsumas, nuts, and virtually all home-grown fresh vegetables were very good this year. The bureau said: "Only cauliflowers were rather low in supply and up in price."

The FT grocery price index is compiled from information supplied by 25 shoppers who monitor more than 100 items each month. The stores visited are the same each month and range from village grocers to supermarkets.

The index is meant only as a guide of grocery price trends and should not be taken as an absolute indicator of price levels.

The FT Grocery Prices Index is copyright and may not be reproduced or used in any way without consent. All inquiries should be made to Lucinda Weatherall at the Financial Times.

FINANCIAL TIMES SHOPPING BASKET

DECEMBER, 1982

	December	November
Dairy produce	740.08	734.81
Sugar, coffee, tea and soft drinks	222.96	223.36
Bread, flour and cereals	331.55	327.90
Preserves and dry groceries	116.48	116.00
Sauces and pickles	52.24	57.85
Canned foods	208.59	207.15
Frozen foods	267.49	265.26
Meat, bacon, etc. (fresh)	443.02	444.45
Fruit and vegetables	274.56	264.89
Non-foods	275.43	274.37
Total	3,138.40	3,118.07

1981: January 130.96; February 131.75; March 132.75; April 134.99; May 136.39; June 137.37; July 137.48; August 138.40; September 138.40; October 137.49; November 140.31; December 141.24.
1982: January 144.81; February 145.83; March 146.71; April 147.73; May 151.04; June 149.37; July 146.92; August 144.56; September 144.13; October 143.79; November 146.65; December 147.62.

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THE ARTS

A Year's Music—Arts Page critics give their personal assessments

The Barbican—for better or worse

The musical message of 1982 was stark: funds and audience sizes ever more alarmingly uncertain (in the wake of the recession) and the famed "Falkland factor", the hunt for commercial sponsorship ever more desperate and the choice of concert programmes ever more clearly dictated (with, of course, honourable exceptions) by the desire to play safe. New "saturation selling" techniques of concert promotion made a small but significant mark on the musical scene. I fear that such an advertising blitz as preceded the Festival Hall debut of the mediocre Vienna Master Orchestra last month must become the rule of the future, rather than the exception.

For concert audiences 1982 must be called the year of the Barbican. The concert hall opened in March; after all the hush and the silence of the live with the place, and the process of familiarisation is still not entirely complete. For myself, I've found that initial pleasure in the concert hall, with its warm, bright acoustics, has survived—even if solo recitals, vocal and instrumental, have seemed less comfortably accommodated there than orchestral concerts, but that in every particular the Barbican foyer, external surroundings, and vicinity have made the approach to the actual hearing of music a clear artistic identity, a purpose for being there, that is more than merely locative. This is perhaps something that can be expected to change, as audience form habits, discover ways and means of penetrating that hateful forbidding mass. Much of the LSO and ECO schedule claimed individuality through some form of thematic grouping (around conductors or composers); but with the shining exception of the Tippett-Berlioz Festival—poorly attended, alas—the final product evinced

a South Bank-type sameness that one imagines (or hopes) was unintended.

One pleasing development at the Barbican was the series of song recitals that Geoffrey Parsons gave with ten famous and less famous singers, under the heading *Geoffrey Parsons and Friends*. The hall proved variably adaptable to different voice-and-piano combinations—or else the singers in question proved variously able to master an unfamiliar environment. Of the four I attended, Thomas Allen's was easily the least successful (sad that so vivid an opera singer should have reduced communicative powers in *Lieder* and *melodics*); Janet Baker, Gundula Janowitz, and Margaret Price all created different kinds of recital intimacy, and moments of recital magic.

But for recitals in London, the Wigmore Hall showed itself ever more indispensable—right

Max Loppert remembers the pleasure of a difficult musical year.

in size, feeling, and situation, somewhere not just for hopeful debutants to go through their paces but for top performers to disport themselves in comfort. Of the song recitals I heard there, Graziella Sciutti's stays in the mind for piquancy, charm, and freshness, Jorma Myrén's for bold artistry and a beautiful baritone voice, Linda Esther Gray's for sheer exuberance. Régine Crespin, even with a throat ailment, glowed with queenly radiance; Siegfried Jerusalem and Doris Soffel, two of the leading younger German singers, displayed handsome voices far more than vital personalities.

As Dominic Gill will doubtless be recalling in greater detail, it was a vintage year for pianists in London. Any season that draws Michelangeli (whom

I heard, in company with another monstrous success, Celibidache, giving the Ravel G major concerto of one's dreams) and Horowitz (who reminded us that he is above all a bel canto musician) must be accounted in some degree a success; but I remember Cherkassky, Gussak, and Jorge Bolet with hardly less gratitude—and the talented but immature Ivo Pogorelich with a still-smoking remnant of irritation. The loss of Clifford Curzon, tubist and Glenn Gould was painful and beyond expectation.

For new music and interesting combinations of 20th century music our reliance on the BBC and the London Sinfonietta (the latter's *Manchester School* series was a revelation—not just in its re-examining Goehr, Maxwell Davies, and Birtwistle in fresh contexts, but for the new works with which the old were so tellingly interspersed. The individual "composed evenings"—such as Ligeti's—worked similar small miracles. The 1982 concert series began in grand style with Elliott Carter's formidable but nakedly appealing song cycle *In Sleep, In Thunder*. It is really possible—the same question we ask year after year, but this time with read urgency—that for the lack of funds the Sinfonietta may shortly cease operations?

From America the BBC Symphony brought us David del Tredici's *Final Alice* (billboard-size musical joke) and Bernstein's *Songfest*, a celebration of American people in 13 brass, exhilarating songs for vocal sextet (in the same concert, Bernstein led a massively over-emotional yet deeply moving *Enigma Variations*). The Stravinsky Festival, three years of marvels, came to a close with the Royal Opera House's *Progress* and, before that, an unforgettable *Persephone* and *Threni*. At the Proms Robin Holloway's *Second Concerto* for Orchestra made a huge impression: with this, and *Clorissa*, and a number of smaller compositions, 1982 may well be seen to be the year of Holloway's artistic maturity.



Arthur Rubinstein



Simon Rattle



Regine Crespin



Sergiu Celibidache

A good vintage of new music

Little excitement can be stimulated for the unenterprising diet of symphonies and concertos that is served up year in and year out on the South Bank by the independent London orchestras. Nineteen eighty-two was no exception to the rule, except when the standard repertoire was transfigured by a great performer. Dominic Gill will doubtless deal with the parade of great pianists that quickened the pulse in the first half of the year; orchestral occasions of similar quality could be counted on one hand. Two concerts by the Vienna Philharmonic under Eugen Jochum set a standard of performance and interpretation that was not approached elsewhere; their 1982 concert series began in grand style with Elliott Carter's seventh symphony was the finest I have had the privilege of hearing, while a Beethoven programme in the Albert Hall demonstrated that "old-fashioned" approaches still have much to recommend them in exceptionally talented hands.

Deputising for Jochum late in the year, Claudio Abbado, in his riveting performance of Bruckner's Seventh, with the London Philharmonic that had been a highlight of 1981, at the Proms, Simon Rattle demonstrated that Mahler's Tenth in Deryck Cooke's performing version should be placed at the highest level of Mahler's achievement. Otherwise I am hard put to justify the mention of any other orchestral performances from the London orchestras. The Philharmonia continued to produce excellent, attentive results especially under its principal conductor, Claudio Abbado, who LPO stillly reached the same high standard. Equally noteworthy was the inexcusable decline of the London Symphony, which instead of reaping the benefits of becoming the first London orchestra to have a permanent home, became alop-

plier and less attentive as the year went on, reserving some of its worst appearances for the Barbican Hall. Happily, there was enough new music of substance and note to fill a review of 1982 several times over. The rise of small-scale contemporary-music groups is becoming a feature of 1980s concert life: they may share a relatively limited number of expert instrumentalists between them, but each organisation usually manages to create a positive image and performance are generally excellent. The New London Chamber Choir, directed by James Wood, is one of the more significant newcomers, its programmes juxtaposing renaissance and contemporary scores, though that formula was forsaken in the autumn for an imaginative programme of Xenakis and early

at St John's there was a sequel to the successful "1945 onwards" series of 1981, this time taking 1952 as the starting point. "1952 onwards" produced at least three premieres of top quality—Elliott Carter's *To Sleep, To Thunder*, Nigel Osborn's *Chorus* (a four-decade work for the Sinfonietta Voices) and—George Benjamin's astonishingly accomplished *At First Light*, arguably the most perfectly realised piece of them all. The Arditti String Quartet is fast becoming an indispensable to our contemporary musical life as the Sinfonietta has been for more than a decade. The Arditti's programme at the ICA in February was for me the concert of the year, superbly played, and presenting three of the masterpieces of the new string-quartet literature, Feryay.

Stockhausen appeared at the Festival Hall, as charismatic ever, to conduct *Enoki* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. As soon as one learns to disregard the mime artists who hover above the orchestra, it becomes one of the composer's more fascinating scores of the last decade, slow to take fire but ultimately completely absorbing. Boulez's appearance at the Proms with his Ensemble Intercontemporain was even more spectacular and significant. It brought the British premiere of *Répons*, the first piece by Boulez or anyone else to use the full panoply of the resources of IRCAM. If the score in its present characteristically unfinished state suggests more a primer in the manifold possibilities of the computer techniques than a major composition in its own right those possibilities are tantalising in themselves.

The ever combative MusICA series moved its main assault to the summer months, bringing another dose of the music of Giacinto Scelsi and an evening devoted to the off-beat and engaging theatre pieces of C. Newman, as well as an installation of the score in its present characteristically unfinished state suggests more a primer in the manifold possibilities of the computer techniques than a major composition in its own right those possibilities are tantalising in themselves.

Andrew Clements finds more pleasure in new music than in the unimaginative output of the major orchestras.

Cage. The London Sinfonietta Third and most magical and fugitive of all, Nono's meditations on Hitler, *Fragmente, Stille, An Diotima*. During the year also the Arditti introduced Vic Hayland's Quartet-movement, the first of a projected set of three, tightly and toughly music. Hayland's talent was demonstrated on a far larger canvas when his music-theatre *Michelangelo* was presented at York University, a bold, imaginative work that weaves its debts to Stockhausen and Berio lightly and superimposes on them an abrasive expressive surface that is all Hayland's own.

Among the older guard, hough's second quartet, Carter's Third and most magical and fugitive of all, Nono's meditations on Hitler, *Fragmente, Stille, An Diotima*. During the year also the Arditti introduced Vic Hayland's Quartet-movement, the first of a projected set of three, tightly and toughly music. Hayland's talent was demonstrated on a far larger canvas when his music-theatre *Michelangelo* was presented at York University, a bold, imaginative work that weaves its debts to Stockhausen and Berio lightly and superimposes on them an abrasive expressive surface that is all Hayland's own.

Welcome changes on the South Bank

Among the minor blessings of the year, the concert-going year in London has been the South Bank's decision to re-open the big side entrance to the Festival Hall, so that one no longer has to go round the whole building to get in, and to permit free entry to the Elizabeth Hall foyer, so that one's guests needn't stamp about in the porch until the host arrives with the tickets. Can the competition from the Barbican have prompted these overdue reforms? Pressure from above is about to force changes upon the pretentious restaurant, too (about which one's had to warn overseas visitors these many years); perhaps the box office will even start answering their phone, as they haven't done for me since the mid-70s. (The apologetic recorded message is always that they're too busy, which must be explained by the popularity of some Festival Hall events; if I were a promoter of recitals in the two smaller halls, I should feel very hard done by.)

The Barbican arts complex itself still offers grim prospects for the pedestrian, as the City takes pride in the Barbican, why can't it enlighten the concrete bleakness of "Beach Street"—and is still better geared to dispensing hard hats than coffee. Its musical planning has shown much more imagination than the first months' programmes suggested: the Falls and John Field mini-festivals were happy events, with genuinely stylish work in the former by the conductor Eduardo Mata and the singing actress Nati Mistral, and in the

latter by the pianist John O'Connor. The controversial acoustics of the hall have been tested over a wide scale of performance; particular successes were Previn's sumptuous *Rachmaninov Symphony No. 2* with the Pittsburgh Symphony, and Richard Hickox's small forces (but not small-scale) account of Bach's B minor Mass. Hickox also led a wonderfully inspiring performance of Janacek's *Glagolitic Mass* by the London Symphony Chorus on the South Bank. Simon Rattle's version with his Birmingham

Companies based outside London displayed other star performances—Cynthia Buchanan in the Buxton *Hary Jones*, Felicity Lott's Octavian in the Glyndebourne *Der Rosenkavalier*, George Shirley in Scottish Opera's *Cavalli L'Egitto* and Nelly Miricioiu and Gino Quilico in their Puccini *Manon Lescaut*, Klaus König in the Dresden *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Edinburgh (brilliant Joachim Herz production), Felicity Palmer in the Prom *Oedipus* and nearly everything else that she did this year—and Dennis

David Murray reports on improvements on the South Bank and gives his prizes for 1982.

chous did not surpass it, but all his conducting this year has confirmed his vital musicianship, perhaps crowned by the exuberant Ravel *L'enfant et les sortilèges* in the Glyndebourne Summer Music. His delectable *enfant* was Maria Ewing, whose Rosina in the Glyndebourne *Barbiere* was again a great operatic delight. Among other such delights were Della Jones in Donizetti's *La Romanière* at the Camden Festival and Rosini's *L'italiana* at the ENO, and all three principals in the Royal Opera's extravagant *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and Jon Vickers in the RO *Pagliacci* (with Cappuccilli) and *Tristan* (with the unpredictable but exciting Gwyneth Jones) and Eduardo Mata and the singing actress Nati Mistral, and in the

O'Neill in the Welsh National *I Puritani*. Among promising newer faces were Adrian Martin in the ENO *War and Peace*, Deborah Rues as a haggard Sophie in the Glyndebourne *Rosenkavalier*, and William Kendall and John Paul Bogard in Berlioz's *L'enfant du Christ* at Lyons. Lyons also had the conductor Marek Janowski, whose Berlioz was as impressive as his new Eurodisc recording of Wagner's *Ring* (with Jessye Norman, another lady who could do nothing wrong this year).

On the fringes, the singers Henry Herford and Justin Lavandae made promising marks in opera and William Parker in recital, and Stephen Varcoe in everything. He performed to great effect with

Brahms/Elizabeth Hall

Max Loppert

The piano trio of Frankl, Paul, and Kirshbaum, assisted by Janet Hilton's clarinet, saw in the New Year, and simultaneously the start of a "Mainly Brahms" chamber music series, on Sunday. Within the prescribed format, the programme (all Brahms, in fact) was both solid and well varied—D minor violin sonata, the clarinet trio, the B major piano trio—but perhaps it was executed with too great a degree of solidity, and an insufficient one of dramatic variety, to avoid a feeling of stodge by the evening's end.

These artists are all chamber musicians of high accomplishment; on this occasion, however, the inspiration that often marks their combination did not very readily descend. Mr Frankl's touch of the piano—he it was who supplied the concert's backbone—was secure, very firmly

placed, rather workaday; he allowed the slow movement of the D minor sonata to go limp, while in much of the clarinet trio he kept too dutifully to the background. Miss Hilton, remarkably pure of tone, likewise took refuge to the verge of interpretive self-abnegation—the work is after all a discourse for assertive equal voices, whereas here it became something of a chamber concerto for Mr Kirshbaum's heartily puffed cello, tastefully adorned.

It was only in the youthful ebulliences of the piano trio (which the composer characteristically disciplined in later life) that anything like the true note of Brahmsian vigour began to be sounded, and all those half-made and furnished paragraphs began to take on any kind of colour and warmth.

Opera version of 'Gaslight'

An opera based on the stage thriller, *Gaslight*, receives its first performance on Thursday January 6 at the Jeannette Crechane Theatre, Southampton Row, London, as part of the Camden Winter Season. Betty Roe, former director of music at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, has written mainly for young people and this is her first full-length opera for adults.

The work has been commissioned by the Internazzei Ensemble, a resourceful group of professionals which specialises in Offenbach. It receives a further performance on January 8.

The other opera in the Camden season is Frank Martin's *Le Vin Herbe* which will be performed by the London Music Theatre Group at the Jeannette Crechane Theatre on January 5 and 7.

Adrian Mitchell joins Unicorn

Adrian Mitchell, the poet and playwright has been appointed Unicorn Theatre for Children. During his residency Mr Mitchell will be writing the 1983 summer touring show for the company and will create a new *Secret Garden* in which celebrities will be invited to the theatre to share the secrets of their professions with the children.

'Man and Superman' to transfer

Due to its success at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, Shaw's *Man and Superman* will transfer to the Cambridge Theatre from Tuesday January 11 for a six-week season. There will be performances Tuesdays to Saturdays at 7.30 pm (with no Saturday matinee).

Royal Opera's visit saved

The Royal Opera has confirmed that its cancelled visit to Manchester next September will go ahead after all. This follows the recent Government announcement of increased aid for the arts and a special supplementary £5m grant for the Arts Council. The season at the Palace Theatre will run from September 9 to September 24, with 14 performances of *Il Trovatore*, *Don Giovanni*, *Butterfly* and *La Cenerentola* di Tito.

Arts Guide

Music/Monday, Opera and Ballet/Tuesday, Theatre/Wednesday, Exhibitions/Thursday, A selective guide to all the arts appears each Friday.

January 3-7

Opera and Ballet

LONDON

Royal Opera, Covent Garden: *Le Nozze di Figaro* a ten-year-old John Copley staging beginning to show its age, has in its favour Denise Marzuccato's quicksilver Susanna, Richard Stilwell's Count, and Samuel Ramey, in the title role. *Sansone et Dalila*, designed by Sydney Nolan (who provided some of the most ravishing sets seen here in recent years) and produced by Elijah Moshinsky, returns with substantially the same cast—Jon Vickers and Shirley Verrett, conductor Colin Davis on January 8, the great Boris Christoff returns to London for a Royal Opera recital. English National Opera, Coliseum: Last season's Gounod *Romeo and Juliet*, a not especially distinguished Colin Graham production, returns with the same heroine in lift, the show into the big league—Valeria Masterson. Further performances of the very impressive *Otello*, and of the rubber routine *Bohème*. Royal Festival Hall: Festival Ballet's *Nutcracker* continues twice daily (3pm and 7.30pm). Royal Opera House, Covent Garden: The Royal Ballet ushers in the New Year with *Cinderella*, and later in the week offers the triple bill of *The Tempest*, *Knutsvatnet* and *Raymonda* Act III. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue: This branch of the Royal Ballet follows *La Fille mal gardée* with a smirking version of *Papillon*.

PARIS

Paris Opera: *Nutcracker* conducted by André Prester, choreography by Boris Eifman, costumes by Karole Armitage. Opera-Salle Palais Garnier. (742 3750) Carmen conducted by Garcia Navarro with Teresa Berganza as Carmen and Ernesto Veronesi as Don Jose. Opera Comique-Salle Favart. (286 1220) *The Widow*—Can-Can and *Comedies* at the Theatre Musical de Paris-Chatelet. (261 1983)

ITALY

Milan, Teatro alla Scala (800 128): Giordano's *Andrea Chénier* conducted by Riccardo Chailly and Verdi's *Ernani* conducted by Riccardo Muti with Mirella Freni and Plácido Domingo.

NEW YORK

Metropolitan Opera (Opera House, Lincoln Center): First seasonal performance of Pellenes at Melisande, conducted by James Levine, starring Teresa Stratas, Jose van Dam and Dale Duesing. Joint repertory performances of *Parade*, the Met's ballet-opera sequence of Sette, Puccini and Ravel, *Il Trovatore*, and the best performance of *Ernani* and Gretel and Tamkula. (580 9530)

WASHINGTON

Washington Opera (Terrace Theater, Kennedy Center): *La Cenerentola* and *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. (254 3870)

CHICAGO

Light Opera Works (Cahn Auditorium, 800 Emerson): *Candide*, Leonard Bernstein's opera-comedy, successfully revived in New York, comes to Chicago starring Elizabeth Gottlieb and David Huff, conducted by Barney Jones and directed by Philip A. Kraus. (246 6111) Beacon Street Playhouse (4220 N. Beacon): World premiere of William J. Norris's *The Christmas Present*, a Dickensian story of the miracle produced by the gift of a silver chalice to a starving family. (561 7300)

HOLLAND

Netherlands Opera: *Cav & Pag* at the Stadsschouwburg, Amsterdam. (Wed.)

WEST GERMANY

Berlin Deutsche Oper: *Die Fledermaus*; Falstaff produced by Goetz Friedrich with Pilot Lorenz, Hänsel and Gretel with Helga Wiesewitz and Janis Martin. Puccini's *Das Mädchen aus dem Goldenen Westen*, produced by Frank Corsaro, conducted by Giuseppe Sinopoli. Features Kaja Borris and Franco Bonaldi. Last at Landestheater has fine interpretations by Cristina Deutekom and Bengt Rundgren, conducted by Gianfranco Masini. Die Hochzeit des Figaro rounds off the programme. (24 3611)

Frankfurt Alte Oper: Premiering this week is Don Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* produced by August Everding. Gwy-

neith Jones triumphs in the part of Die Feldmarschallin. Così fan tutte benefits from a creditable performance of Marijana Lipovsek in the role of Donabella. Der Barber von Sevilla has an all-Italian cast. (35 1151)

Cologne Opera: The Magic Flute has Maria Salminen as Sarastro. Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg with Hans Sotin as Sachs and Kay Gräfel as Eva is splendidly handled. This week's highlight is Der Freischütz with Siegfried Jerusalem and Eda Moser. Die Fledermaus is a fresh and delightful revival. (20 761)

Frankfurt Opera: Arrigo Boito's *Mefistofele* in a concert version conducted by Klaus Peter Selbel with Jewgeni Nesterevko in the title role. Ruth Berghaus' spectacular Parsifal production with Walther Raffeiner will be also on the programme this week. La Traviata has Eugene Medvedev in the title role. My Fair Lady has fine interpretations by Gabriele Fuchs and Tito Weber in the main roles. (25 6211)

Munich Bayerische Staatsoper: Puccini's *Il Tabor* and Gianni Schicchi with Julia Vercay and Giorgio Lambard in a dramatic, well-paced performance. Die Fledermaus, in Otto Schenk production has fine interpretations by Bernd Weik and Daphne Evangelista. Die Hochzeit des Figaro with Hermann Fey and Lutz Popp. Also this week Orpheus/Die Kluge both by Carl Orff, starring Wolfgang Brendel and Angela Feeney.

Frankfurt Alte Oper: The original Broadway version of West Side Story, with a New York ensemble.

F.T. CROSSWORD

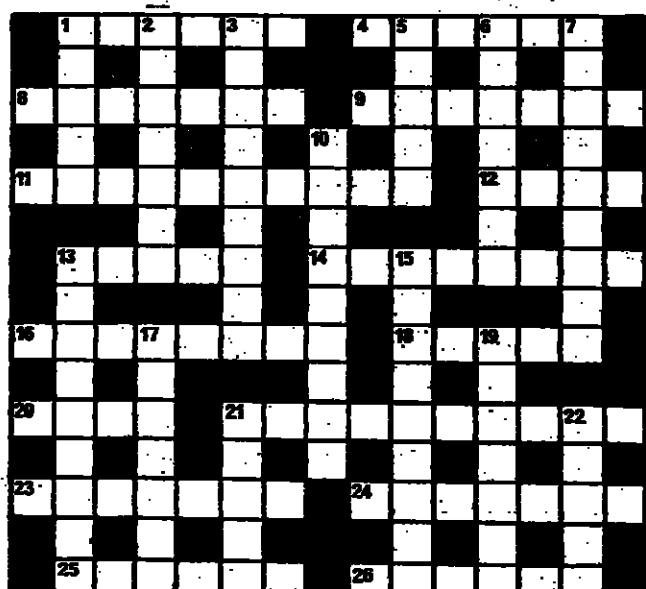
PUZZLE No. 5,062

ACROSS

- A delicacy has little interest within 24 hours (6)
- Professor keeps a vehicle in the street (8)
- Puzzle with no more meaning for the French (7)
- The governor starts this month in opposition (7)
- Altitative collector of condiments (5, 5)
- Here's a bandit without and a ship (4)
- A bird with energy—understood? (3, 2)
- It means the razor is sharp (4)
- Is like, we hear, stage comedians (8)
- Given accommodation, which over way you look at it (3, 2)
- A dose discharged (4)
- The lady of the manor has a talk with the girl (10)
- "The calf and the young lion and the — together" (O.T.) (7)
- You have to segregate one thus unpunctual (7)
- A striping at Babcock-hith (6)
- The result of leaving the strait and narrow (6)

DOWN

- One under the doctor can be an idler (5)



- Earnest for one member over the others (7)
- His sounding was questioned (9)
- Pressage one short month for the city (5)
- Have I the opportunity to be friendly? (7)
- Preliminary to play at Lords demands a call (7, 2)
- Representative with the gift of the gab (9)
- "A — is better than all the heads in the world" (Lyttton) (4,5)
- Trains Fleet Street in costs (9)
- Boy with girl on his knee (7)
- Crepper gives a shot of what is coming (7)
- What we take on departure (5)
- Trim abstainer in refusal (5)

The solution to last Friday's prize puzzle will be published with names of winners next Saturday.

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السنة الثالثة

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moved its summer home to the northern end of the lake in Ketchikan, Alaska, and returned to the city of Seattle, as well as to the work of the N. K. A. at the end of the month. The title of the Symphony orchestra. Battle Program. University to hear the singing of Robin Hood. Clatskanie in the symphony drawn in. As a work for all, the symphony is, but it presents to justify the of the company as practicable contemporary and stable embrace to and the N. K. A. finding strength stage year in face

Bank

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Katharine's
and St. Mark's
I played along
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a quartet, the B
and Emma (the
quartet). And I
played 8 numbers
by himself in
a 10 number
only to be played
the French Co
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 SAN FRANCISCO SINGAPORE
 HART TOKYO TORONTO
 WYTHEWYTH WYTHEWYTH
 WASHINGTON

1. The first step is to identify the problem.
 2. The second step is to define the problem.
 3. The third step is to analyze the problem.
 4. The fourth step is to develop a solution.
 5. The fifth step is to implement the solution.
 6. The sixth step is to evaluate the solution.
 7. The seventh step is to monitor the solution.
 8. The eighth step is to maintain the solution.
 9. The ninth step is to improve the solution.
 10. The tenth step is to document the solution.

1983

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REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

THE MANAGEMENT PAGE: Small Business



L to R: John Bowis of the National Federation of Self-employed and Small Businesses; Derek Young of the Union Independent Companies; Stan Mendham of the Forum of Private Business; Jeremy Pope of the CBI's Smaller Firms Council; and Brian Kingham of the Association of Independent Businesses

Doing nicely—but could be better

Tim Dickson reports on the hopes of some key lobby groups for the new year

WHILE the economic outlook remains bleak, the possibility of an Autumn election and the designation of 1983 as the European Year of the Small and Medium Sized Enterprise, should ensure that small firms remain in the political spotlight over the next 12 months.

The Government has now chalked up around 100 measures which it claims have been directed specifically at small companies. But the major lobby groups—spurred on perhaps by their successes over the past 31 years—are still not satisfied and would like to see further changes in the legislative and fiscal climate.

Summing up the recent gains, John Bowis of the National Federation of Self-employed and Small Businesses feels that "the three falling I's"—inflation, interest rates and the (national) insurance surcharge—have provided some light for the small businessman.

For the immediate future, though, the Lancashire-based group maintains that while the outlook for those setting up a new business has brightened, it would now like to see more light for the tunnel-bound established small business.

The federation is thus calling for measures to encourage small businesses to retain working capital, a fairer deal for the self-employed over national insurance contributions, a reduction in the administrative burden of VAT and a "positive statement" on the reform of business rates.

The Union of Independent Companies echoes the plea for

help for the more established business and emphasises that "positive discrimination" alone can redress the economic imbalance between big and small. "Our particular wish for 1983 is to see more tangible awareness of the vital role that small and medium sized manufacturing companies can play in Britain's economic revival and growth," says UIC's national chairman Derek Young.

The UIC wants a review of all legislation and regulations affecting small business and

Protection for creditors

greater flexibility in their application to small firms. It is keen to see more Government purchasing from small companies, more closely reflecting small firms' share of the gross national product. Implementation of the Cork Report on Insolvency Law and Practice proposals offering some protection to unsecured creditors would be welcome, and, while interest rates have come down, a further reduction of medium-to-long-term borrowing costs for industrial investment would also raise a loud cheer.

This point is taken up by the Forum of Private Business, which wants a "small business bond" so that small businesses can borrow from the bank at half the normal interest rates. "The mechanism is that the banker takes security on the assets that are purchased and offers half the interest rate.

When the bank is completing its own annual tax returns it does not pay any tax on the small business bond interest," says the Forum's chief executive, Stan Mendham.

The forum is also concerned about VAT—the threshold of which was increased last year from an annual turnover of £15,000 to £17,000. It estimates on the basis of its own recent survey that savings of £80m could have been made by traders if all those in a position to de-register had done so. The Government, it claims, would have saved a further £40m.

Looking ahead the forum is calling for an increase in the VAT threshold to £30,000—to reduce Government spending and the small business administration costs involved. "Such a measure, says Mendham, would encourage more start-ups and provide the very small business with a competitive edge.

Also on Mendham's shopping list is a reduction in the cost of the Government's Loan Guarantee Scheme (the interest premium is currently 3 per cent on the guaranteed portion) and a three year tax deferral scheme for small businesses or those businesses changing their products, re-equipping, changing location or increasing their labour force by 50 per cent.

Reflecting on 1982 the CBI's Smaller Firms Council chairman, Jeremy Pope, takes particular satisfaction from the reduction in business costs through cuts in interest rates, the National Insurance Surcharge and energy prices. As for this year, the CBI con-

cedes that planning is difficult for companies—the timing of a general election and future economic trends are uncertain and it detects little sign yet of an upturn even among small manufacturing outfits.

"More and more people are going into business on their own, often as a result of redundancy or lack of job opportunities, and we have to find ways of helping those with the potential to make it," he says.

The CBI is sticking to its proposal last year for Small Firms Investment Companies, which would be supported by individual and institutional funds and would help new and established businesses with loans and equity.

However, Pope sounds a note of caution: "The revival

Realism and patience

of interest in smaller firms has come about because of optimistic assessments about their potential for wealth and job generation. This has created a bubble of hope and expectation which smaller firms may find difficult to live up to in the short term, particularly against a depressed economic background.

"It would be a tragedy if this bubble were to burst because the long-term potential which is certainly there may not satisfy short-term expectations.

Realism and patience will need to be the priorities for the smaller firm sector in 1983."

Apart from the reductions in interest rates and the National Insurance Surcharge, the Association of Independent Businesses took particular heart from last year's Employment Act which outlawed secondary picketing.

The major item on the AIB's 1983 agenda is business rates. "Between 1970 and 1982 business rates increased from 18 per cent to 50 per cent of industrial profits while, during that period, domestic rates rose from 2.3 per cent to 2.9 per cent of personal disposable income after tax. Rates are not charged on empty houses but they are imposed on unused factories—hence the growing practice of removing the roofs of such buildings to escape the tax."

The AIB is also still concerned that the present tax system provides a disincentive to work and is calling for increases in personal tax allowances.

It describes as an "appalling anomaly" the way employees are unwilling to accept extra responsibilities and additional pay because it would be "eaten away by extra taxation and eroded by the loss of social security benefits."

Brian Kingham, the AIB's chairman, makes a final plea: "During the European Year we seek a greater public conception of the role in, and the value to, the national economy of, smaller businesses, rather than of budding businessmen of a small Government measures."

'Go it alone' inducement for Scottish graduates

A SEARCH is under way North of the border for the next generation of Scottish entrepreneurs.

A total of 40 graduates—preferably including some with a touch of the genius of an Alexander Bell, a James Watt or an Alexander Fleming—are required to join an unusual new programme aimed at helping them develop their business ideas.

Called "Graduate Enterprise" the scheme will, later this year, offer the chosen few a training package worth an estimated £5,000 and what could be a significant step forward on the road to commercial success.

The idea, which involves both public and private sectors, is the brainchild of Professor Tom Cannon of Stirling University—an academic with a keen interest in practical initiatives. It has already received the formal blessing of John MacGregor, the Junior Industry Minister with special responsibility for small firms and of David Young, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission.

If successful it will be followed by similar projects based at Durham, Manchester and Aston Universities, Trent College, the London Business School and a location in the South West. The organisers say their preliminary model is also attracting considerable interest outside the UK.

Government support for the scheme—the MSC has chipped in £25,000—is not surprising since Ministers are keen to promote more widely the idea of self-employment to those studying in schools and universities.

Private sector sponsors—among them accountants Arthur Young McClelland Moores, the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation and Ivory and Sims and associated investment trusts—have also agreed to put up money and most crucially lend their experienced staff in support. No doubt they see a "useful opportunity to become involved at an early stage with what could become successful businesses of the future."



Tom Cannon: an academic with a keen interest in practical initiatives

relatively tender age and prepare them for the rigours of the commercial world through an intensive 18-week training and development programme.

"We don't know of any comparable scheme in the UK, Europe or the United States," comments Stephen Duffy, who has been seconded for a year from Arthur Young to co-ordinate the venture.

"What we hope to be is the catalyst for those with viable business ideas to come forward from the eight Scottish universities. We are convinced that there are plenty and if our scheme fails we are sure that it will not be for lack of projects."

"Students are very familiar with big companies which turn up to talk to them about careers. We would like to think that 'Graduate Enterprise' will become a genuine alternative to this 'milk round' in the future."

The scheme kicks off later this month and in February with one-day conferences at each Scottish university. "Enterprise counsellors" have been appointed at each location to generate interest and issue invitations to every student graduating this year. Speakers will include a politician, the University Chancellor and a graduate who has succeeded in his or her own business. Bankers, accountants and marketing experts will be

on hand to discuss early problems/ideas. Between February and May budding entrepreneurs will be encouraged to put their business plans together. Back-up support and advice will be on hand from sponsors and other sources, co-ordinated in each case by the enterprise counsellor.

Meanwhile, a local panel of experts (including local business people) will have reviewed and "constructively" criticised ideas by around the beginning of March before finally picking the best local projects, at the end of May. These will go forward to a national panel in June when the 40 best will be chosen. Duffy comments: "We will certainly not choose doubtful plans just to make up the numbers. But I am sure that there will be enough viable projects."

Those selected for the course will receive free accommodation at Stirling University; a £60/£70 per week enterprise grant; a £1,500 market research grant; free office facilities and a £250 general grant. No capital will be provided but the organisers estimate that overall the assistance will be worth around £5,000.

Although postgraduates are most likely to have the right blend of experience and experience, Professor Cannon stresses that first rate undergraduate projects will not be discounted. T.D.

Only 355 days to Christmas 1983

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Tuesday January 4 1983

New approach
to a summit

ONE OF the pivotal economic events of 1983 ought to be the Western summit meeting to be held in May. Existing policies have produced persistently disappointing results and should this trend continue, there is a clear danger not only of outright depression but of the disintegration of the world free trading system. There has never been a clearer need for a consensus on constructive new policies; yet scepticism about the whole process of consultation at the summit has never been more pronounced.

This scepticism would be perfectly justified if the leaders could be expected to do nothing but unite in deploring the present state of the world. It is not the case. If nothing else was achieved in 1982, the year's events did at least spread a general understanding that countries cannot pursue their domestic aims without regard to the consequences overseas. The OECD and the International Monetary Fund have begun to spell out some of the implications of changes in U.S. monetary policy and Japanese fiscal policy are practical and helpful expressions of this understanding.

Extravaganza
Most significantly, perhaps, Mr Donald Regan, the U.S. Treasury Secretary, suggested a constructive agenda for new initiatives. Fiscal and monetary policies should be framed with regard to the need for a more stable and realistic pattern of exchange rates between major financial institutions should be provided with larger resources and freed of some restrictions on their use; a framework should be set up for effective action in debt emergencies; weight should be given to the trading needs of the third world. This is an admirable agenda.

The scepticism derives from the way the issue of summits has been handled in recent years and, in particular, since the extravaganza at Versailles in June, where form triumphed over content. This meeting failed to focus on the main issue of the coming slump or to the acute dangers to the world credit system which would accompany it and was swiftly followed by acrimony between the U.S. and Europe over trade in steel and over European involvement in the Soviet gas pipeline project.

The U.S. President soon made it known that he would make the next summit, scheduled for May in Williamsburg, Virginia, a more workmanlike affair. This is a welcome intention because the main trends which have reduced the value and emphasis on summits since 1975 were that finance and foreign ministers should attend. It is the U.S. retinue of bureaucrats which

has swollen the fastest. It was President Carter who exercised his taste for long and very detailed communiques which had to be negotiated and haggled over for months in advance. It is the U.S. which applies the strongest pressure to turn any such summit into a media event.

Undermined
These trends have undermined the value of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's idea when he pressed for the first economic summit in 1975. He wanted a relatively intimate and unpublicised meeting to discuss monetary co-operation in a world of floating exchange rates and the co-ordination of economic policy.

In recent summits preparation has begun many months before the event. The meeting is generally prepared under five headings: macro-economic policy, international monetary relations, international trade, energy, and north-south relations—whether these are burning issues of the moment or not. A variety of different ministries have their say and when the heads of state come together they find that the discussion is already taken place.

On top of this process of bureaucratisation, and some would argue because of it, there has crept in an unfortunate tendency to regard the summit as a zero-sum game in which there must be a loser for every winner. It is poor diplomacy to claim publicly that any negotiation that one has gained something and the other has lost nothing. Yet after the Versailles meeting both the U.S. and Europe have been left with the impression that the concessions they had made in these areas did not amount to much.

Simple agenda
The Williamsburg summit must redress these faults. The agenda should remain as simple as possible and as concentrated as possible. The numbers attending should be pared to the bone. The personal representatives of the heads of state—"sherpas" in the jargon—should compress the agenda to a few key issues. The month preceding the summit and the personal briefings by their heads of state before they begin their work.

The communiqué should summarise the main conclusions reached by the heads of state. It should not be regarded as the end of a process but the beginning of one. There needs to be a shift of bureaucratic emphasis from summit preparation to summit follow-up. The simply stated requests of the leaders should serve as the basis for detailed negotiation between competent ministers after the summit. From their own point of view, the Western leaders should point the way they want to go, rather than map the path which brought them together.

An unnecessary
misunderstanding

BRITAIN'S relations with Saudi Arabia and other parts of the Arab world are again—unnecessarily—in difficulty. The refusal by Saudi Arabia to welcome a visit planned by Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, to Riyadh later this week, is the culmination of what appears to have been a series of misunderstandings. While the British Government cannot always expect to walk safely through the minefield of inter-Arab relations it should at least be sure that its own policies are clearly defined and enunciated with a single voice.

Reaffirmation
When King Hassan of Morocco proposed to lead an Arab League delegation to London—with similar delegations visiting other world capitals to explain the decisions reached by the Arab summit at Fez—the request appeared to pose few difficulties.

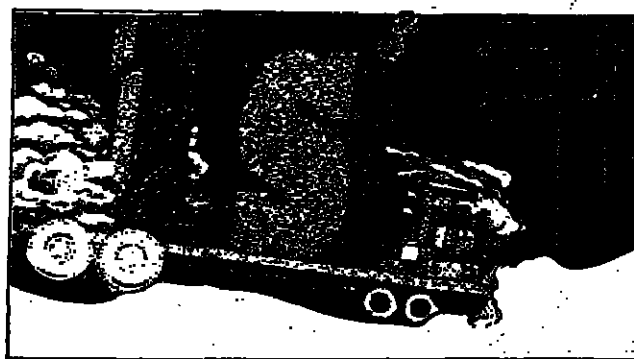
Later, PLO representation became an issue. The Foreign Office apparently in consultation with 10 Downing Street, laid down conditions which have clearly infuriated the would-be visitors. They were told that the delegation would only be received on the basis that it supported the Fez declaration hinting at eventual recognition of Israel and also confirmed its opposition to terrorism.

A message apparently intended in London as a simple reaffirmation of policy gave offence. Exactly who was responsible for drafting it is unclear. The suspicion is that the root of the problem lies in relations between the Prime Minister's office and the Foreign Office. Britain's position on the PLO has long been that it will not be officially recognised until it

accepts Israel's right to exist and renounces terrorism. However, it is far from clear what "recognition" implies. British officials regularly meet PLO representatives and the impression has gained ground in the Middle East that at least part of the Government would favour the creation of an independent Palestinian state on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza strip. Mr Pym made a statement to this effect on a recent visit to Damascus, but immediately repented it. The arrival of Sir Anthony Parsons, a diplomat with extensive Middle Eastern background, at Downing Street as foreign policy advisor has now raised questions in the Arab world about where British policy will be made in future.

This confusion is deplorable. Quite apart from the possible damage to trade relations, it is regrettable that a cooling in relations should take place just as Britain and the more moderate members of the Arab world appeared to be moving closer towards a common approach to a Middle East peace settlement.

The British Government welcomed the Reagan peace plan. Many Arab governments believe there are elements in it worth exploring. Of course, there are still formidable obstacles to overcome, not least Israel's blanket rejection of the Reagan plan. Yet when, at last, there is some indication of movement it is more than a little sad that Britain should suffer crossed wires with Arab proponents of a negotiated settlement. The blame does not lie entirely in London, but it is here that action can be most readily taken to put things right.

Forecasts 1983
Reaganomics, reality and recoveryTHE U.S. ECONOMY
By David Hale

THERE ARE increasing signs that the recession in the American economy is ending, but there is considerable uncertainty about what kind of recovery lies ahead. Several indicators suggest that a modest recovery may begin as early as the first quarter of 1983. The motor industry has cut inventories and plans to increase production in January. The fall in mortgage rates since summer has produced a revival in home-building activity which is still gaining momentum.

Finally, the rate of inflation has dropped to the 4-6 per cent range, where it is likely to remain until the end of 1983. Pay growth has fallen to an annual rate of 6 to 7 per cent from 10 per cent two years ago while productivity is likely to increase by at least 2 to 3 per cent during the next 12 months. Moderate pay gains and a cyclical recovery in productivity should also permit a partial non-inflationary restoration of corporate profit margins during 1983—a recovery which is now simply discounted in the stock market.

Past business cycle history suggests that the U.S. economy should enjoy a buoyant recovery during 1983. The U.S. economy has typically expanded at a rate of 6 per cent to 8 per cent during the first year of business expansion.

The recent downturn, moreover, has been the longest of the post-war years. Since the brief recovery in 1980-81, charts of industrial production or real GNP show the U.S. economy to have been virtually flat for three years. There is thus considerable cause to expect a recovery which will be more than a simple return to the level of output before the downturn. The differences between the current economic environment and previous recovery periods suggest that the 1983 recovery will be only half as strong as the post-war norm.

First, the U.S. now has a far more deregulated financial system than at any time in the post-war period. Since 1978, the authorities have been progressively phasing out the formerly tight restrictions on the interest rates which banks and thrift institutions have been permitted to offer savers. These institutional changes have had a profound, if not yet well understood, impact on the economy. Whereas the old financial system was biased in favour of borrowers, the new system is far more favourable to savers. As a result, there has been a substantial decline in household credit usage and a significant redistribution of income from borrowers (young families purchasing a home) to savers (the wealthy or retired). In the light of various "hopeless" causes throughout the world, some 60 per cent of his practice is in administrative and constitutional cases.

Back in the mid 1970s, Macdonald represented the Ocean Islanders in their long legal battle with the UK Government over compensation for their removal from their tiny South Pacific homeland rendered virtually uninhabitable by phosphate mining.

In 1977, Macdonald was engaged by the family of Yuri Orlov to lead the defence of the Russian dissident but was barred from the trial at which Orlov was sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

More recently Macdonald has fought in the courts to safeguard the rights of Canadian Indians threatened by the Canada Act and secured \$5m compensation for the inhabitants of Diego Garcia who were evacuated from the Indian Ocean island so that it could be turned into an American military base.

The 51-year-old barrister was asked to go to Dacca to defend Moudud Ahmed shortly before Christmas. But his application for a visa has met only "somewhat evasive replies."

Charges against Moudud Ahmed had "every appearance of being trumped-up," says Macdonald, and the trial has

Deregulation also has removed the circuit breakers in the financial system that once permitted the Federal Reserve Board to crunch the economy at a relatively low level of market interest rates.

Because of the financial system's new flexibility, there is now more uncertainty about the level of interest rates required to stop or start the U.S. economy and a high risk premium is being factored into bond yields. This adjustment has helped to hold long-term borrowing costs in the U.S. at very high levels compared to previous recovery periods.

The second major difference between the current period and the previous recoveries is the international dimension of the recent U.S. recession. A deteriorating trade balance has accounted for more than half the weakness in the U.S. economy during the past two years.

Protectionist
sentiments

The high real interest rates resulting from the Reagan Administration's risky attempt to combine a tight monetary policy with loose fiscal policy attracted a large flow of foreign money into U.S. dollar financial assets during the past two years, causing the dollar exchange rate to become seriously overvalued.

The real economy adjustment to this capital inflow has been an increase in the merchandise trade deficit, especially in manufactured goods. In the 12 months to October, the U.S. had a trade deficit of \$20bn in manufactured goods, compared with a surplus in 1981. The total 1982 trade deficit would be much higher than the Government's current \$42bn projection but for a substantial improvement in the commodity trade account, resulting from falling oil demand.

Since the U.S. is likely to lead a world economic recovery the 1983 trade deficit may well balloon to the \$60-\$80bn range. The dollar is still substantially overvalued while important export markets in Latin America and Canada will be depressed for at least another year.

U.S. MERCHANDISE TRADE

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982/3qtr.
Billions of 1972 dollars											
Merchandise exports											
Agricultural	9.5	12.1	11.1	11.3	12.6	12.9	15.3	15.9	18.0	18.2	17.8
Non-farm	39.9	49.1	54.1	55.1	55.1	55.1	60.0	64.9	74.2	70.7	64.2
Total	49.4	61.2	65.2	66.4	67.7	68.0	75.3	80.8	92.2	88.9	82.1
Merchandise imports											
Oil	4.7	6.6	6.3	6.2	7.5	9.1	8.5	8.6	6.8	4.0	5.0
Non-oil	51.1	52.1	52.0	49.6	53.6	58.3	67.0	68.4	67.1	72.5	74.1
Total	55.8	58.6	58.3	49.8	61.1	67.3	75.5	76.9	74.0	78.5	79.1
Merchandise trade balance	-6.4	1.5	8.9	15.5	6.5	6.7	-0.3	5.9	18.1	10.5	3.0
Balance—											
Less oil imports and farm exports	-11.3	-4.0	-4.1	10.5	1.5	-3.1	-7.9	-1.5	7.8	-1.8	-9.8

The manufacturing trade deficit is now at levels which preceded large dollar declines during the 1970s.

Men & Matters



"Just who do you think you are to mean about absentees over the last few days?"

now been adjourned. But if the martial law administration persists in going ahead with it, Macdonald says the defence must now rest with the UN.

Nosed out

Should your doctor give a tentative sniff or two as if testing the bouquet of a fine wine—while applying the stethoscope to your chest, don't be alarmed.

It probably means he's taking seriously the suggestion in The Lancet that your aroma can afford clues for the finely-tuned nose as to the state of your health.

Three American medics claim that the natural smells we give off reveals more than whether we smoke or eat garlic. They list 45 smells emanating from their patients, and their diagnoses.

Beware the aroma of freshly-baked brown bread. It betokens typhoid. Stale beer can indicate TB and the fleshy smell of a butcher's can suggest yellow fever.

Skating hastily over some truly noxious smells and what they may mean, we come to the odours of maple syrup or yeast,

which can point to diseases in the water-works. While the pong of over-ripe Camembert can suggest a certain kind of abscess. But take heart if you smell sweaty for that is the smell of the normal body.

The doctors are with a plea to others to "record their experience of olfaction as a diagnostic tool." But my GP says sniffing that at this time of the year everybody is either splashed with Christmas-present perfumes, has a cold and cannot smell anything.

Lamb shorn
With the sudden resignation of Sir Larry Lamb, the game of musical chairs that revolves around the editorship of Rupert Murdoch's newspaper, The Australian, goes near-silent.

Only six months after rejoining the Murdoch organisation—and only three months after becoming "The Australian's" editor-in-chief—Lamb, former editor of The Sun, announced at the weekend that he is returning to Britain "to resume my career there."

Lamb declined to be more specific and plans to take a long holiday before deciding what to do. But he is not expected to rejoin Murdoch either at The Times or Sunday Times or at his original perch in Bourneville Street.

Murdoch, now an infrequent visitor to his corporate headquarters in Sydney from his home in New York, has been in Australia with his family for the holidays and there have been serious disagreements at The Australian.

The proprietor reversed a Lamb move to take sport off the back page of the newspaper and criticised some other changes his one-time deputy chairman had made.

The new editor—The Australian's 13th in its 16-year life—

is Les Hollings, a former Times sub-editor, who occupied the chair for several years previously until Murdoch removed him.

In recent months, Hollings has come back into favour, acting as corporate relations manager. As such, one of his major duties has been to provide Murdoch with a steady stream of managing director Ken Cowley, with a daily appraisal of anticipated news which became known as the "Yellow Peak" for its laudatory comments on how The Australian and other newspapers were handling it.

Let down
President Mitterrand has a certain fondness for scientific innovation. But high technology in the shape of a 140 ft mobile crane, let him down with a bump at the weekend.

The crane was supposed to hold aloft a special parabolic antenna to relay Mitterrand's New Year message from his country residence in south west France to millions of TV viewers throughout the country. But the machine never turned up—and the broadcast had to be postponed for 24 hours until a replacement was hired at a cost of at least FFfr 20,000 from nearby Bayonne.

The TV announcer mumbled sheepishly that the original British-made crane had got stuck in the fog. Actually it had never left its base in Nancy, 625 miles away, where it was being used to prune the poplars in the city's public park.

It is not the first time Nancy's trees have interfered with presidential action. A few years ago, city workers were seen to cut down a telephone cable and cut off a conversation between President Georges Pompidou and a leading member of the West German Government.

Observer

greater burden on the willingness of the American people to work and invest. But it was never revolutionary enough to transform behaviour and permit a rapid, painless transition to high non-inflationary rates of economic growth.

How will the Administration modify its programme in order to make it more compatible with economic recovery? Since many of the potential policy choices contradict previous electoral promises, the Administration is divided over how to proceed. Also, the new Congress will be less co-operative than its predecessor.

It may be many months before a new fiscal policy emerges. But because the perceived options are so limited, two things are likely to happen which should boost the economy later next year after a further rise in the unemployment rate above 11 per cent during the next few months.

First, there will be continued pressure on the Federal Reserve to take all of its risks on the side of ease rather than restraint as 1983 progresses.

New shadow veto power
The Fed will try to resist demands for excessively stimulative monetary policies similar to those that occurred during previous recovery periods. Mr Volcker's term ends in August and whether he is reappointed or not, he will not want to be compared with Dr Arthur Burns whose policies are now regarded as having been far too permissive during the 1971-1972 and 1976-77 recoveries.

But while Mr Volcker is trying to promote a moderate non-inflationary recovery, he recognises that any further economic deterioration or large increase in interest rates would trigger direct intervention by Congress into the conduct of monetary policy.

The Fed's and the Administration's growing sensitivities to the international economic environment, including both the exchange rate and the LDC debt problems, also argue for monetary ease. Indeed, Latin America is taking on some of the characteristics of a new Federal Reserve district, with shadow veto power over any tightening moves.

The Fed will continue to announce money targets during 1983, but it is unlikely that they will retain their former status. During 1982, monetarism was partly discredited by a collapse in the ratio of money to GNP (money velocity) which caused Fed policy to appear more stimulative than it really was.

As Mr Volcker himself has been stressing during the past year, the Fed will now have to rely on judgment in guiding the economy rather than mechanical rules. In time, U.S. monetary analysis will develop a more British flavour, with as much attention focused on the credit counterparts of money growth as narrow measures of bank liabilities.

The new flexibility of Federal Reserve policy creates the risk of moderate deterioration in the

economy's inflation performance during 1984 and 1985, especially if the dollar falls sharply, but with unemployment so high and inflation so low, the argument will be prepared to accept that risk. The economy will face no real resource constraints for some time and many forecasts now project an unemployment rate of 9 per cent at the time of the 1984 presidential elections even if recovery starts soon.

The second major probability in the outlook is that there will be a grand compromise or a series of minor compromises over fiscal policy at some point during 1983 as a *quid pro quo* for continued monetary flexibility.

When a compromise finally occurs, the Reagan Administration will probably swap cuts in defence outlays and selected tax increases for long-term reductions in the growth rate of social security benefits, as well as modest cuts in other non-defence expenditures. The tax increases will most likely consist of higher payroll taxes as well as attempts to broaden the tax base by reducing exemptions and deductions.

There is now much public discussion about introducing a flat rate income tax or a more progressive narrow bracket system similar to it. The President has been reluctant to consider broadening the tax base as the first step in that direction.

If the policy adjustments are successful, the Federal deficit will remain large in dollar terms but shrink to 3 to 4 per cent of GNP as the economy recovers during the mid-1980s. In 1983 and 1984, though, Federal fiscal policy will continue to be highly stimulative as emergency lending assistance to Latin America (\$20bn per annum or more) offsets the short-term deficit-reducing effects of tax and spending changes.

The major problem for the Reagan Administration from the start has been its unwillingness to accept the constraints on any government's ability, right or left, quickly to alter economic policy. The LDC debt problem, also argue for monetary ease. Indeed, Latin America is taking on some of the characteristics of a new Federal Reserve district, with shadow veto power over any tightening moves.

While ideological fervour was probably necessary to win the 1980 presidential election and achieve the legislative successes of Mr Reagan's first year, it blinded the Administration to economic realities and frequently caused propaganda to be substituted for policy. The Administration pursued ambitious and contradictory objectives with no real grasp of the economic trade-offs implicit in them.

1982 was the year in which reality intruded. 1983 will be the year in which the Administration's lack of realism is demonstrated. Whether it has the ability to combine a long-term commitment to its original goals with prudent economic management, David Hale is chief economist at Fenwick Financial Services and Kenneth Murray Johnston International Inc. of Chicago.

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Forecasts 1983

Why there could be better news on the way

THERE IS considerable pessimism about 1983, but it could in fact be the year in which the economy begins to come right. It should be the first of Mrs Thatcher's years in office in which the real money supply rises significantly and the first in which the rate of inflation falls. These should both produce economic benefits.

Monetary economists believe that financial markets tend to be depressed if the money supply grows more slowly than the price level. This causes those who become short of cash to seek to convert liquid assets into money which raises interest rates, pulls down house and share prices and produces weak markets for capital and consumer goods. Where the money supply rises substantially faster than prices, cash exceeds current needs, with the result that buying orders for shares of all kinds predominate over selling orders, while equally favourable conditions are created in the markets for real estate and durable consumer goods. Growth in the real money supply may of course lead to extra purchases of foreign shares and so depress



THE BRITISH ECONOMY

By Walter Eltis

the exchange rate, while tight money may sharply raise this. The table shows how drastically the real money supply fell in Mrs Thatcher's first year. Money supply according to its narrower definition — increased by 14 per cent less than prices in 1979-1980, sterling M3 by 5 per cent less and PSLS (private sector liquidity) by 8 per cent less. All three measures of the money supply therefore indicate the tightening of financial markets and these were in-

deed extremely depressed, while interest rates rose sharply as portfolio holders and finance houses attempted to minimise adequate liquidity, and the exchange rate shot upwards. The influence of the real money supply on financial markets was approximately neutral in Mrs Thatcher's second and third years.

If attention is focused on M1 there was a slight further tightening, while money became looser according to the sterling

M3 measure. But it is well known that this was severely distorted by the removal of the control, and by the faster growth of bank housing loans (which influence sterling M3) than of building society loans which do not. The PSLS measure does not suffer from these distortions, and this indicates an approximately stable real money supply from the summer of 1980 to the summer of 1982.

The real money supply started to grow very sharply indeed last summer. Retail prices rose by only 1.3 per cent in the six months May to November 1982, but in these same months M1 rose 8.4 per cent, sterling M3 by 6.3 per cent and PSLS by 4.5 per cent. Financial markets were thereby given an upward twist and these favourable effects should continue. The Government is likely to raise the money supply by some 10 per cent in the next 12 months, while M1 is almost universally agreed that retail prices will rise by only 5 per cent or 6 per cent and possibly by less. Few fear a wage round of more than 6 per cent or 7 per cent and with productivity rising at 2 per cent or 3 per

cent, wage costs per unit should rise only 4 per cent or 5 per cent.

The forecasts of a fall in the oil price at some point in the year underline how commodity prices are more likely to fall than to rise, and with cuts in taxation in respect of business costs should rise by only 3 per cent or 4 per cent. A 5 per cent rise in prices should therefore actually permit some widening in profit margins. Prices could even rise by as little as 3 per cent or 4 per cent if there is a modest fall in the exchange rate as a result of a lower price of oil. With 10 per cent nominal monetary growth in 1983, the real money supply is bound to grow if inflation is held down in this way, and this should prove an expansionary force — the converse of the deflationary influence of the shortage of money in 1979-80.

The second favourable influence on prospective demand and output should follow from the Government's success in controlling public expenditure. Many of its policies to achieve this have been slow to take effect, but they are now coming through very strongly indeed. The nationalised industries and the local authorities are at last spending less, public sector pay is rising more slowly than the private sector pay, lower interest rates are reducing the cost of financing the national debt, and it is generally recognised that these influences might well combine to produce an end to the Government borrowing of £2bn in fiscal 1983-84.

That would permit tax cuts of £2bn if Sir Geoffrey Howe expects economic growth in 1983 to produce some buoyancy in revenues. He should therefore be able to cut taxes by something like 1 per cent off the national product and at the same time reduce borrowing in line with the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

If Sir Geoffrey is cautious about the growth of revenues and gives priority to reducing borrowing further, he might not feel free to cut taxes by as much as this. There are inevitably great uncertainties in the estimation of future Government revenues and expenditures, and the key decision for the Chancellor will be whether to hedge against the possibility that borrowing might prove unexpectedly high. In 1981-82 he erred on the side of caution and over-estimated the borrow-

ing requirement, with the result that he under-estimated the scope for tax cuts by some £2bn. He has apparently repeated this error in 1982-83 as borrowing is again likely to be well below the amounts expected in March.

This budgetary caution has allowed stock expenditures like the Falklands war to be financed with ease, but it would be strange if, with unemployment approaching 8 1/2m (according to the relatively optimistic view of 1983 which would follow if the favourable factors that have been outlined were the only ones that mattered).

The first worry is the weakness of the world economy. The U.S. recovery is expected in the summer of 1983 at the earliest, and with Japanese and German output slack, the French forced to curtail their Keynesian experiment and the Italians desperate to control their deficit, recovery will depend almost entirely on the U.S. British employment depends far more than it used

to have a measure of impact on output and employment when this starts to come through the conventional forecasts which ignore supply-side effects that develop over long periods will be caught off balance. These favourable effects could begin during 1983, but their timing is in no way predictable. The good news could emerge at any time.

What might go wrong with the relatively optimistic view of 1983 which would follow if the favourable factors that have been outlined were the only ones that mattered? The first worry is the weakness of the world economy. The U.S. recovery is expected in the summer of 1983 at the earliest, and with Japanese and German output slack, the French forced to curtail their Keynesian experiment and the Italians desperate to control their deficit, recovery will depend almost entirely on the U.S. British employment depends far more than it used

the real money supply will much reduce British interest rates in a pre-election year. Will it really be possible for Mrs Thatcher to borrow long at 8 per cent, which is what interest rates should fall to with inflation at 5 per cent, if there is some possibility that this interest will actually have to be paid with money printed by Mr Foot?

With his proposed £300m boost to public expenditure, accompanied by the prospect of a large devaluation, or else a collapse of sterling and no income policy (of the kind which made it possible to reduce inflation from 30 to 10 per cent in 1975-79) Britain's expected inflation rate would soar in any period in which a Labour victory appeared possible. Portfolio holders would then switch out of British bonds so that interest rates would rise, what- ever the behaviour of the real money supply. Growth in this would then reduce the value of sterling instead of raising it, and very possibly persuade the Government to raise short-term interest rates to protect the exchange rate yet again.

It must be kept in mind that the exchange rate of sterling does not depend solely on developments in Britain. A flight from sterling, as a result of political risks which would tend to depress the pound (or else raise the short-term interest rates needed to sustain it) is one possibility, but happily there are others. The dollar conditions for Britain in 1983 would be a fall in the dollar which would cheapen our raw materials and a rise in the D-Mark which would make our exports more competitive. These developments are by no means unlikely.

The U.S. current account is chronically weak while monetary growth is accelerating, so the dollar could fall sharply at any time. In Germany the new CDU-dominated coalition is tightening the budget which could easily produce the familiar exchange rate appreciation that conservative financial policies always produce at first. British industries are now dominated by foreign markets, a boost to construction may have become the principal way in which British governments can raise employment in the short term. The second reservation about 1983 is that it may be optimistic to suppose that an increase in

The need for new initiatives to oil the growth mechanism



THE WORLD ECONOMY

By Jan Tumlin

TWO LARGE question-marks obstruct the view as we peer into 1983. Can an international financial crisis be avoided? Will inflation reaccelerate? Clearly, the two questions are not unrelated.

In industrial countries, economists see technical factors falling into place that, in normal conditions, would make for an upswing. Inventories are low, the financial balance of households has improved as consumer debt has been drawn down and residential construction is showing signs of an upturn.

Additional positive factors may be arising from the very duration of recession. In households as well as companies, increasingly the replacement of old and worn-out stock of durable equipment can no longer be postponed. New lines of activity, profitable even in generally depressed conditions, are being perceived and plans for them finalised. These factors "appear" particularly promising in the U.S., but even there they will have to contend with considerable depressive forces. The room for expansion is very limited.

Last summer's shift in monetary management created a major policy change. Inevitably, too, additional uncertainty to a business world accustomed to watch money supply data. The more rapid monetary growth can still be interpreted as compatible with a continuing decline in inflation. (As inflation declines, the demand for cash balances increases.) It can also be interpreted, however, as a sign of alarm in central banks at the speed with which inflation declined and at the magnitude of the financial problems, the decline has revealed.

To hold inflation at its present level for a year or so before pushing it lower, might seem a good idea, but it implies a return to fine-tuning with its well-known risks. Some contemplated investments might well be postponed until a more reliable judgment as to future price level behaviour could be formed. The recent weakness of the dollar and the pound has increased the danger that inflation and interest rates could rise again in the wake of an acceleration of production without a marked upturn in industrial investment. Any increase in investment will be difficult to contain within the margin of available saving, a large part of which is claimed by public budget deficits.

In the U.S. next year, Government borrowing (in conditions) is expected to exceed consumer saving by some 10-15 per cent. An upturn of inflation would be likely to send interest rates rising above the price level. The rise in both inflation and investment would thus be arrested again, but at the cost of large and protracted disarray in all capital markets.

As for the international financial problem, we simply have to assume that it will be prevented from breaking out into an open crisis. For the assumption to hold, some demanding policy conditions will have to be met. Even so, the financial situation will influence real economic developments, mainly by depressing the export-demand of the developing countries. In addition, imports into the off-exporting countries have been growing at sharply declining rates in the last few years and in 1983 will show only a small increase, if any. It may be noted that the U.S. ships some 40 per cent of its exports to these two destinations, a much higher proportion than either Japan or Europe.

This shortfall in import demand could, in principle, be offset by an increase in trade among the industrial countries, though here, too, the trading opportunities have narrowed in recent years. Japan in particular — a large importer from developing countries — is hemmed in by restrictions and unlikely to achieve a large export increase next year. One would have to assume, in addition, that the U.S. would take no new measures to counteract the likely deterioration of its current account.

Even more important, the mechanism by which growth impulses used to be transmitted from country to country is now seriously damaged. In the past, cyclical upswing in one or more industrial countries, first of all, to an improvement in the terms of trade of raw material exporting countries. The consequent increase in their import demand stimulated international trade further, which in turn elicited more investment. In the long period, the late 1940s to the early 1970s, when world production was increasing by roughly 5 per cent and world trade by roughly 8 per cent per annum, in volume between one-quarter and one-third of aggregate

investment was related to production for export.

In the present circumstances, this mechanism is unlikely to amplify such recovery as can occur in the U.S. and perhaps a few other countries. A series of trade improvements of (non-oil) raw material exporters would certainly facilitate their debt-service problem; by the same token, however, it could not stimulate their domestic economic activity and import demand. In addition, import policies of the main industrial countries are unsettled and the uncertainty weighs heavily on potential investment projects whose profitability depends on access to foreign markets or supplies. It is difficult to see by what measures "purely domestic" investments could be made to expand sufficiently to offset this effect, not only in an individual country but in the world economy at large.

A general revival of economic activity thus appears improbable. Such improvements as may occur in individual countries are likely to be diluted by a continuing stagnation, or offset by continuing declines in other. In world production and trade, "more of the same" seems a realistic expectation for 1983. Perhaps an optimistic one, if it is recalled that it assumes, as a necessary condition, that the financial problem will remain under control.

The full magnitude of the problem is now known. The efforts to control it have so far consisted of a hectic improvisation of emergency credits. In this way, we buy time at the cost of increasing the problem. The time bought must now be used for devising a long-term plan of financial and economic measures that both creditors and debtors can accept. Only such a common perspective can secure the co-operation of the large number of independent agents on which consolidation depends.

It is not realistic, for example, to believe that the problem was created by the high interest rates, long recession

and falling commodity prices since 1980. The changes merely terminated a clearly unsustainable development, namely, the pronounced acceleration of international lending after 1973, concurrent with a progressive narrowing of trade restrictions by the industrial countries, reflected the unwillingness or inability of the latter to allow a structural adjustment of their economies.

Even if economic activity picks up next year, the financial problem, though somewhat easier to handle, would be far from solved. Analysis suggests also, however, that a resumption of sustainable growth rates is unlikely as long as the industrial countries maintain the policies which give rise to the problem.

The long-term plan must, therefore, provide for national policy reforms on both sides. The key changes on which the IMF has based its conditional emergency credits to debtor countries are designed not just to increase their payments capacity. Their purpose is to improve the general performance of these economies so that financial stringency does not unduly depress their growth. This, however, is attainable only if corresponding changes occur in the economic policies of the creditor countries. As long as the latter are bent on reconquest of their domestic markets, and preoccupied with "intolerable" bilateral deficits in their mutual trade, no conceivable restructuring can make international debt serviceable.

Governments of creditor countries still find it difficult to acknowledge this condition and to accept the twofold policy change which the necessary adjustment will demand on their side. An adequate structural adjustment of Western economies will imply massive new investment. If it is to be financed without inflation, tax and public expenditure policies will have to be reformed so as to raise the aggregate saving ratio of these economies.

More important still, the adjustment will also require creativity and careful calculation, and to make this possible, the numerous measures distorting resource allocation and constraining entrepreneurial initiative will have to be dismantled. Necessary though they are, these changes will be very difficult to accomplish. Indeed, political opposition to them appears to be growing. One is reminded of the irresistible force meeting an immovable object.

Jan Tumlin is Director of Economic Research and Analysis, Gert Secretariat, Geneva. This article states the personal views of the author.

UK REAL MONEY SUPPLY

	(Percentage changes)	M1	£M3	PSLS
1979 II to 1980 II	-14.0	-5.0	-8.4	-8.4
1980 II to 1981 II	-1.3	+4.4	+1.8	+1.8
1981 II to 1982 II	-2.1	+2.3	-0.2	-0.2
1982 May to November	+1.0	+4.8	+2.9	+2.9

The increase in the series for M1, £M3 and PSLS (private sector liquidity) defined by the rise in retail prices.

take the form of a lower oil price and therefore lower oil taxation. But this will stimulate the economy in the same way as alternative tax cuts which fall partly on the consumer and partly on industry's costs.

It may be hoped that a combination of an increase in the real money supply of 4 or 5 per cent which will please monetarists, and tax cuts of 1 per cent of the national product, which will please Keynesians, will set off the economic revival that has been awaited so impatiently.

There may, moreover, be good news during 1983 from the expansion of small businesses. The Government has been encouraging the growth of new businesses through lower marginal personal taxation, enterprise zones etc for 3 1/2 years. The number of company starts is exceeding bankruptcies even in the depths of recession.

TENDERS MUST BE LODGED AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND, NEW ISSUES (K), WAITING STREET, LONDON, EC4M 8AA NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, 6TH JANUARY 1983, OR AT ANY OF THE BRANCHES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND OR AT THE GLASGOW AGENCY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND NOT LATER THAN 3.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH JANUARY 1983.

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The Stock will be registered at the Bank of England or at the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, and will be transferable, in multiples of one penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1983. Transfers will be free of stamp duty.

Interest will be payable half-yearly on 24th February and 24th August. Income tax will be deducted from payments of more than £5 per annum. Interest warrants will be transmitted by post. The first payment will be made on 24th August 1983 at the rate of £2.50 per £100 of the Stock.

Tenders must be lodged at the Bank of England, New Issues (K), Waiting Street, London, EC4M 8AA not later than 10.00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, 6TH JANUARY 1983, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England not later than 3.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH JANUARY 1983. Tenders will not be received after 10.00 A.M. on Thursday, 6th January 1983 and 10.00 A.M. on Tuesday, 11th January 1983.

Each tender must be for one amount and at one price. The minimum price, below which tenders will not be accepted, is £84.00 per cent. Tenders must be made at the minimum price or at higher prices which are multiples of 2 1/2p. Tenders lodged without a price being stated will be deemed to have been made at the minimum price.

Tenders must be accompanied by payment in full, i.e. the price tendered (minimum of £25.00) for every £100 of the nominal amount of Stock tendered. A separate cheque must accompany each tender cheque must be drawn on the bank in, and be payable in, the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

Tenders must be for a minimum of £100 Stock and for multiples of Stock as follows—

Amount of Stock tendered for	Multiple
£100—£1,000	£100
£1,000—£10,000	£500
£10,000—£50,000	£1,000
£50,000—£250,000	£5,000
£250,000 or greater	£25,000

Her Majesty's Treasury reserve the right to reject any tender or part of any tender and may therefore allot to tenders less than the full amount of the Stock. Tenders will be ranked in descending order of price and allotments will be made to tenders whose tenders are at or above the lowest price at which Her Majesty's Treasury decide that any tender should be accepted (the allotment price), which will be not less than the minimum tender price. All allotments will be made at the allotment price tender which are accepted and which are made at prices above the allotment price will be allotted in full; tenders made at the allotment price may be allotted in full or in part only. Any tender allotted in tenders will be allotted at the allotment price to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, Issue Department.

Letters of allotment in respect of Stock allotted, being the only form in which the Stock may be transferred prior to registration, will be despatched by post at the risk of the tenderer, but the despatch of any letter of allotment, or the return of any account amount paid, may at the discretion of the Bank of England be withheld until the tenderer's cheque has been paid. In the event of such withholding, the tenderer will be notified by letter by the Bank of England of the acceptance of his tender and of the amount of Stock allotted to him. Subject to such conditions of payment of his cheque, such notification will confer no right on the tenderer to transfer the Stock so allotted.

No allotment will be made for a less amount than £100 Stock. In the event of partial allotment, or of tenders at prices above the allotment price, the excess amount paid will, when returned, be remitted by cheque despatched by post at the risk of the tenderer. If no allotment is made the amount paid with tender will be returned likewise. Non-payment on presentation of a cheque in respect of any Stock allotted will render the allotment of such Stock liable to cancellation. Interest at a rate equal to the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate for seven day deposits in sterling ("LIBOR") plus 1 per cent per annum may, however, be charged on the amount payable in respect of any allotment of Stock for which payment is accepted after the due date. Such rate will be determined by the Bank of England by reference to market quotations.

on the due date for such payment, for LIBOR obtained from such source or otherwise as the Bank of England shall consider appropriate.

Letters of allotment may be sent in denominations of multiples of £100 on written request received by the Bank of England, New Issues, Waiting Street, London, EC4M 8AA, or by any of the Branches of the Bank of England, on any date not later than 10th February 1983. Such requests must be signed and must be accompanied by the letters of allotment. Letters of allotment, when issued, will be sent by post, and may be lodged for registration forthwith and in any case they must be lodged for registration not later than 10th February 1983.

Tender forms and copies of this prospectus may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Waiting Street, London, EC4M 8AA, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England, or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 25, St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, G2 2ES; at the Bank of Ireland, Moyne Buildings, 1st Floor, 20, Colander Street, Belfast, BT1 5BN; at Mullens Co., 10, Moorgate, London, EC2R 8AN; or at any office of The Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
30th December 1982

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This form must be lodged at the Bank of England, New Issues (K), Waiting Street, London, EC4M 8AA not later than 10.00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, 6TH JANUARY 1983, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England not later than 3.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH JANUARY 1983.

ISSUE BY TENDER OF £500,000,000

2 1/2 per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 1987

MINIMUM TENDER PRICE £84.00 PER CENT

TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND

I/We tender in accordance with the terms of the prospectus dated 30th December 1982 as follows—

Amount of above-mentioned Stock tendered for, being a minimum of £100 and in a multiple as follows—

Amount of Stock tendered for Multiple

£100—£1,000 £100
£1,000—£10,000 £500
£10,000—£50,000 £1,000
£50,000—£250,000 £5,000
£250,000 or greater £25,000

Sum enclosed, being the amount required for payment in full, i.e. the price tendered (minimum of £25.00) for every £100 of the nominal amount of Stock tendered for (shown in Box 1 above)—

The price tendered per £100 Stock, being a multiple of 2 1/2p and not less than the minimum tender price of £84.00—

I/We request that any letter of allotment in respect of Stock allotted to me/us be sent by post at my/our risk to me/us at the address shown below.

Dated: SIGNATURE: of, or on behalf of, tenderer

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

MR/MRS MISS FORENAME(S) IN FULL SURNAME

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS—

POST-TOWN COUNTY POSTCODE

(a) A separate cheque must accompany each tender. Cheques should be made payable to "Bank of England, New Issues, Waiting Street, London, EC4M 8AA" and crossed "Exchequer Stock". Cheques must be drawn on a bank in, and be payable in, the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

(b) The price tendered must be a multiple of 2 1/2p and not less than the minimum tender price. If no price is stated, this tender will be deemed to have been made at the minimum tender price. Each tender must be for one amount and at one price.

A CONSENSUS OF FORECASTS

An average of the main forecasting bodies

All figures are % changes on average for previous year, unless otherwise stated

	Real gross domestic product	Growth in industrial production	Unemployment rate (% of total labour force)	Balance of payments (current prices in \$bn)	Exchange rate v \$ (end of year)	Inflation
	1982 1983	1982 1983	1982 1983	1982 1983	1982 1983	1982 1983
OECD	-0.2 1.9	-3.0 2.7	7.8 9.5	-4.0 -12.8		7.5 6.6
EEC	0.4 1.3	-0.3 1.4	9.5 9.9	-14.2 -10.9		10.2 8.4
U.S.	-1.5 2.3	-8.0 1.4	9.4 10.4	+2.5 -16.6		4.3 5.6
UK	0.4 1.7	0.5 2.1	12.4 13.0	+5.3 -0.3	1.61 1.44	8.6 6.4
Japan	2.3 3.3	1.3 3.5	2.3 2.4	+8.8 +11.5	2.48 2.22	3.2 3.5
West Germany	-0.7 1.0	-1.7 0.5	6.4 8.2	+1.6 +3.5	2.45 2.26	5.1 4.1
France	1.3 1.1	-0.6 1.3	8.5 8.9	-11.1 -9.3	6.95 7.14	11.8 10.2
Italy	0.9 1.4	-0.6 3.3	10.3 10.7	-7.9 -6.7	1.414 1.442	16.4 15.8
Australia	1.6 2.2	-0.5 1.7	6.5 6.5	-7.6 -6.8	1.04 1.06	11.1 11.3

Notes: OECD and EEC sources used: EEC, Wharton, Haverly, London Business School, MIESR, Phillips & Drew, Simon and Coates. Additional national material: U.S. Treasury, C.I.B. U.S. Motion Picture Bank of Tokyo, Germany: IFO, Government Council of Economic Advisors. Exchange rate forecasts were based on average of 20 forecasts completed by European Community Report.



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BRITAIN SET TO PROTECT 12-MILE COASTAL LIMIT

Gales foil Danish fish challenge

BY HILARY BARNES IN COPENHAGEN AND MARK MEREDITH IN EDINBURGH

BAD WEATHER, with force 10 gales in the North Sea, yesterday forced Danish fishermen to postpone their planned challenge to new EEC fishing regulations and possible confrontation with Britain's Royal Navy.

A number of vessels left Danish ports but none was found fishing anywhere inside Britain's new 12-mile coastal zone off Scotland, the Shetlands or Northeast England.

Mr Kent Kirk, chairman of the Esbjerg Fishermen's Association and a conservative member of the European Parliament, says he probably will fish within 12 miles of Britain.

However, the bad weather forced him to put back his trip to British waters, probably off Newcastle in Northeast England to catch sprats and herring. He expects to set off in his 140 ton trawler, "Sand Kirk", this morning with a number of reporters aboard. The trip should last 40 hours in reasonable weather, so that any confrontation with British fishery protection vessels will not take place until Thursday at the earliest.

Mr Kirk's basic contention is that with the expiry of the 10-year transitional restrictions on December 31, Danish vessels can fish anywhere in EEC waters, including right up to British beaches.

Denmark refused to accept a new common fisheries policy (CFF) agreed by the other nine members of the EEC.

Put in its simplest terms, the new policy is based on two elements: guaranteed quotas of catches for each member country, and exclusive access - with some exceptions - for countries up to 12 miles around their coasts.

Denmark wanted to be able to catch more mackerel and also wanted access to the so-called "Shetland box", an area of British water off the Scottish Shetland Islands. This was unacceptable to Britain.

If Denmark had accepted the new regime it would have been permitted to catch 23 per cent of the total allowable catches, second only to Britain with 38 per cent.

Denmark's refusal to conform to the agreement means the other nine countries have effectively imposed a regime on it by passing their own national laws concerning protection.

Mr Kirk claims this is illegal. His argument is that under the Treaty of Rome any common policy must be unanimously agreed. He wants to test this first in a British court and ultimately in the European Court of Justice.

Britain has made clear its intention to protect its grounds and arrest intruders. It has mobilised a flotilla of protection vessels. The UK Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has at its disposal 16 ships equipped with Bofors guns. These are based in Rosyth, Fife, and they work in conjunction with Nimrod aerial reconnaissance aircraft operating out of Kinloss in North Scotland. In addition, the Edinburgh-based Department of Agriculture of the Scottish office has five vessels of its own.

Under British law, if apprehended, trawler skippers risk a fine of £30,000 (\$81,000) and confiscation of gear and catches.

The real confrontation between the UK and Denmark over fisheries may not come to a head for many months, with the single exception of Mr Kirk who seems determined to be arrested.

A fully-fledged conflict will arise if the Danish Government awards catch quotas to the Danish fleet which the British Government cannot accept. Everyone hopes that the Danes will not do this before a negotiated solution to the Common Fisheries problem has been achieved.

Brake on BL plan to order overseas

By Our Industrial Staff in London

THE BRITISH Government, concerned about the consequences for the motor components industry of plans by BL to order cars to switch orders overseas, has asked Austin Rover to delay the placing of important contracts.

BL's new corporate plan, now under consideration by the Department of Industry, is thought to indicate that Austin Rover - the volume cars division - will increase components supplies from overseas from less than 20 per cent to about 30 per cent by the end of this year.

The proportion of imports is expected to climb further in subsequent years and on some projections could approach 50 per cent within four years.

The components section of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, still unaware of the BL plan, has advised ministers and civil servants that any significant move by BL to source supplies overseas will lead companies to pull out of particular products and close factories.

Suppliers warn that further retraction will mean cutting into the "core" business, and that strategic parts of the industry are at risk to foreign competition.

The issue is highlighted at Dunlop, the dominant supplier of car wheels to BL, Vauxhall and Talbot in the UK. Ford makes its own wheels. Austin Rover has told the Dunlop engineering group it must at least hold prices to remain competitive.

Dunlop maintains that to meet international prices, particularly from West Germany and the Far East, it must commit substantial investment in new processes and automation. But it is prepared to invest the necessary £5m only if a substantial contribution is forthcoming from the Government as selective assistance under the Industry Act. Without such aid the viability of the Coventry factory with its 650-strong labour force is at risk.

BL's purchasing policy clearly raises important political issues. Austin Rover, adhering to the Government's objective of making the state-owned company independent of public funds, is pledged to achieve break-even at the trading level by the end of the financial year.

But the Treasury, in its response to the latest corporate plan, is thought to have drawn attention to a policy contradiction: one of the main reasons for pumping government money into BL was to provide a home base for the important motor components industry with its technological advantage and export earnings capacity.

The government request for a delay on the award of major contracts until this year went out two months ago. The Department of Industry is likely to have warned the large components companies that Austin Rover is serious in its intent at least to hold prices and that decisive action is necessary by the UK industry to remain competitive.

THE LEX COLUMN

Threatening skies over the City

Drafting a road map for the financial markets in 1983 is an uncomfortable exercise in *déjà vu*. Once again, the UK economy is expected to show real growth, albeit modest and concentrated in the second half of the year, while corporate profits look set to rise by 15 per cent or more overall on the back of a gradual recovery in output.

Election

It is not just the disappointment of similar expectations in the recent past that make crystal-ball gazing an exceptionally hazardous occupation in 1983. The ball is greatly clouded by the present threat to the international banking system by the fragility of the oil price and, more parochially, by the likelihood of a UK election at some point in 1983. Taken together, these uncertainties may give sterling a far bumpier passage than it enjoyed during all but the closing months of last year.

It looks unlikely, however, that interest rates will move as dramatically as they did in 1982. Monetary authorities on both sides of the Atlantic appear committed for the time being to the more expansionary direction taken last summer, with the task of provoking a long-delayed recovery in the business cycle, now the overwhelming priority.

In the US, inflationary expectations are being contained around the 5 per cent level for 1983, forcing attention on the highest unemployment rate for 40 years, utilisation of manufacturing capacity running at under 70 per cent and diminishing prospects for GNP growth.

Similarly, in the UK, there is a general consensus that inflation will trough at 5 per cent during the second quarter and will thereafter move gently upwards. This would certainly suggest that short-term interest rates on both sides of the Atlantic may have further to fall in the early months of 1983 and that the gilt-edged market could recover during that period to a level approaching its November peak.

A yield base in the area of 10 or 11 per cent could prove vulnerable in the year, however. Quite apart from the unsettling effect which a narrowing of the present wide gap in the opinion polls might have on sterling and foreign holders of gilt-edged, there could easily be an acceleration in the momentum of official funding.

Assuming a modestly expansionary budget in the spring, the PSBR can be expected to show some increase in the next financial year, while the authorities may again be tempted to overfund the deficit in order to counteract the continued buoyancy of bank lending to the private sector. With National Savings meeting stiff competition, from the building societies in particular, life and pension funds may be required to step up their gilt-edged purchases.

The equity market is, in any event, unlikely to receive again the stimulus from gilt-edged which helped to propel it to record levels last year. The impact of sterling on export competitiveness and the translation of overseas earnings, together with the influence of consumer spending on output, may prove more material factors.

To date, the strong recovery in consumer demand has been met principally through a further round of de-stocking and a rise in import penetration. While the savings ratio, already at a low level, may have much further to fall, the spring budget should help to sustain consumer spending well into the current year.

Little support can be expected from overall growth in world trade volume this year, so in order to underpin equity ratings at their present high historic levels, the market is hoping that consumer demand will broaden, away from white goods and VTRs, which have a heavy import content, and that margins will be improved by a continued containment of input costs as well as by further gains in productivity.

The recent weakening of sterling has met little official resistance and - so long as the pound does not create significant inflationary pressures through a steep fall against the dollar in particular - the authorities will probably continue to take a relaxed view. A further downward adjustment of sterling's trade-weighted parity would be of rapid benefit to industrial profit margins.

The exchange-rate risk is very considerable, however. The surplus on the current account of the UK's balance of payments looks set to evaporate this year, institutions will presumably be investing abroad as a hedge against a Labour victory at the polls and foreign confidence in the currency is almost certain to be shaken as election day approaches.

So there must be at least an outside chance that the authorities will be obliged to step heavily on the monetary brakes later in the year in order to stem a run on sterling. As the humble stock market rating afforded to several of the more cyclical industrial sectors still indicates, the risk of substantial corporate failures in that event is by no means remote.

The best that can be hoped for is that 1983 will produce a second leg to the bull markets in both equities and gilt-edged, supported by a gradual recovery in the domestic economy, a slightly more expansionary fiscal stance and an extension of the present approach to monetary policy. Such optimism does, however, appear very vulnerable.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CASE NO. 3-81-0011-LK

NOTICE OF VOTING PROCEDURE ON PLAN OF REORGANIZATION

In re:
ITEL CORPORATION, Debtor,
a Delaware corporation.

TO PARTIES IN INTEREST:
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that ITEL Corporation has received Court approval of a Disclosure Statement relating to its "Plan of Reorganization."

A ballot and a copy of the Disclosure Statement have been sent to all holders of Eurobonds who filed proofs of claim. For those holders of Eurobonds who did not file proofs of claim, a ballot and a copy of the Disclosure Statement may be obtained from the following agent banks, depositors and ITEL Corporation's Information Agent. The principal agent bank, as well as successor indenture trustee for the Eurobonds is:

J. Henry Schroder Bank & Trust Company
Attn: George Sievers, First Vice President
One State Street
New York, NY 10015
U.S.A.
Telephone: (212) 269-6500

Other agent banks include:

180 Strand London WC2R 1ET. ENGLAND	or Chemical Bank 85, Avenue Marceau 75116 Paris FRANCE	or Avenue des Arts, 46 1040 Brussels BELGIUM
Banque Generale de Luxembourg S.A. 27, Avenue Montebello and 14, Rue Aldringen P.O. Box 1906 LUXEMBOURG	or Swiss Bank Corporation Aeschenvorstadt CH-4002 Basel SWITZERLAND	

Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank NV
Herengracht 595
P.O. Box 1220
Amsterdam
THE NETHERLANDS

In addition, holders of Eurobonds whose securities are in the custody of Euroclear Operations Center P.L.C. ("Euroclear") or Cedel S.A. ("Cedel") may arrange to obtain a ballot and Disclosure Statement and cast ballots through Euroclear or Cedel at the following addresses:

Euroclear Operations Center P.L.C. c/o Morgan Guaranty Trust Avenue des Arts, 35 1040 Brussels BELGIUM	Cedel S.A. 67 Bd Gr D Chardotte P.O. Box 1006 LUXEMBOURG
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Eurobond holders also may obtain ballots and Disclosure Statements from ITEL Corporation's Information Agent at either of the addresses shown below:

Morrow & Co. 30 Gardiner Close London E11, ENGLAND Telephone Collect: 01-989-3397	Morrow & Co. 345 Hudson Street New York, NY 10014 Telephone Collect: (212) 255-7400
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All Eurobond holders who wish to vote on the Plan must return a completed ballot to one of the agent banks or depositors identified above so that ballots may be received by ITEL Corporation in San Francisco by February 15, 1983, and deposit their Eurobonds with such institution, along with their ballots. Each agent bank or depositary will review the ballots it receives and certify to ITEL Corporation that the amount of Eurobonds delivered to it is correctly stated on each ballot. Eurobonds delivered in connection with voting on the Plan will be held by the agent bank or depositary until February 16, 1983.

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Geographical split underlines political divide on UK jobless

By Peter Riddell, Political Editor, in London

THE SPLIT between areas of high and low unemployment in Britain is almost exactly matched by the political breakdown between Conservatives and Labour.

Ninety-five of the 100 parliamentary constituencies with the highest unemployment are Labour held, while all but two of the bottom 100 are Conservatives. There is a close statistical match throughout the range.

The results are highly significant for the impact of the sharp rise in unemployment on politics, underlining the growing division of the UK. They provide one explanation for the relative lack of internal Tory pressure on the issue.

Figures are drawn from the 1981 census of population which allows a constituency-by-constituency analysis. This is unlike the monthly Department of Employment figures which are for generally larger, travel-to-work areas. The ranking of constituencies by unemployment - though not the party breakdown - is in a House of Commons Library research note.

The relative rankings may have changed since the census, but the broad conclusions are probably still valid.

Whether as cause or effect, the

Unemployment and the Parties				
Ranking of constituencies by unemployment	Per cent rate	Labour	Tory	Other
Top 100	42.5 to 17.7	95 (1)	3	2
101 to 200	17.7 to 13.5	71 (9)	28 (1)	1
201 to 300	13.5 to 11.4	61 (7)	38 (2)	1
301 to 400	11.4 to 9.3	39 (3)	60 (7)	1
401 to 500	9.3 to 7.2	13 (3)	85 (7)	1
501 to 600	7.2 to 5.2	1	97	2
601 to 623	5.1 to 4.0	0	23	0

* Party divisions for 1979 election; figures in parentheses show seats which have subsequently changed hands, almost all to SDP.
† Unemployed men as per cent of economically active population based on April 1981 census. Great Britain (excluding Northern Ireland)

growing polarisation of Labour and Tories between North and South matches the pattern of unemployment. Only eight of the 100 constituencies with highest unemployment are in southern England, and all are in the south-east. Unlike previous recessions, there are fewer Tory MPs with direct constituency experience of high unemployment.

There is a correlation between very high unemployment and the size of the Labour vote. The 10 seats with most unemployment had Labour votes averaging 60 per cent of the total in the 1979 election, compared with 37.8 per cent nationally.

The nationalist parties are likely to represent high unemployment

seats, and most Liberals are in below average ones.

● The Social Democratic Party (SDP) defectors, especially those from the north-east and Merseyside, are like Labour MPs, heavily concentrated in high unemployment areas.

● The Tory MPs with the highest unemployment, notably those from the north-west and the Midlands, have been vocal on the issue. But there is no close match between moderates, militants and unemployment. Some of the leading critics of the present economic strategy have the lowest unemployment.

● Tory MPs with the highest unemployment are not all in seats previously regarded as marginal.

Lloyd's probes possible fraud

By Mary Ann Sieghart in London

LLOYD's, the London insurance market, has set up a steering committee to examine claims of a possible fraud involving extended warranties.

These warranties are bought by shoppers to extend the life of their 12-month guarantees on goods such as washing machines and refrigerators.

There is a possibility that more extended warranties have been issued than insurance cover exists.

Mr David Lerner, of Lloyd's, said: "There is a firm which sells guarantee schemes to outlets and that firm has been insuring itself with underwriters at Lloyd's."

"Premiums have been coming in to the underwriters which are possibly more than had been agreed," he said. "That means that more business would have been done than the premiums justified."

The steering committee will include underwriters, bankers, and possibly other professional people from outside the market. It is likely to report on its findings towards the end of the month.

Howe's plans still tight

Continued from Page 1

tion on the impact of public spending. This has risen to 45 per cent of national output this year, so one's scope for giving any significant help on either side depends on continuous success on that front."

Although the Chancellor has yet to make his budget judgment, he indicated that his November statement which suggested that about £1bn (\$1.62bn) would be available for tax cuts if public borrowing was held at £1bn "offered an insight" into the Treasury's views about the room for an adjustment of fiscal stance.

He added though: "It is much too early yet to know what the position will be when the time comes for the budget - whether there will turn out to be scope for adjustment or not."

How, then, did Sir Geoffrey react to the gloomy tone of the most recent Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin and of the December forecast for the world economy from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development?

Both underlined the fragility of prospects for economic recovery and the danger that recession would feed upon itself as a result of a wasting of business and financial confidence. The OECD in addition dropped some strong but veiled hints that governments may need to help break the downward spiral through more expansionary policies.

Sir Geoffrey cautioned against taking too gloomy a view: "Obviously we are going through a long and difficult transition within the world as well as in Europe and the UK, but the particular problems - arising, for example, in relation to

sovereign risks affecting the banking system - are being handled by a sustained concentration, case by case."

There was now a general sense of urgency among finance ministers about the need to strengthen the resources available to the international financial institutions.

"Beyond that, very considerable success is being achieved in the battle against inflation worldwide and in this country and similarly in securing lower levels of interest rates." This headway, enabled the forecasters to expect some growth in world trade in 1983 after a contraction in 1982.

"I am certainly not offering the prospect of immense good cheer, but I would seek to counter the persistence of gloom that we are going through in these troubled times. We are going in the right direction and I think there are some signs for believing that is so."

Sir Geoffrey emphasised his view that the present "pains of transition" reflected the efforts of many governments to correct a tendency to push public borrowing "in the wrong direction, which is upwards."

Success in reducing inflation and lowering interest rates, on the other hand, had already contributed to a marked revival of domestic demand in the UK. Real demand is estimated to have increased by 3 per cent in 1982, he said, with the prospect of similar growth in the current year.

"From our point of view the important thing is that we should win our share of that increased demand for production of UK goods and services."

To achieve this further improvements in competitiveness would be

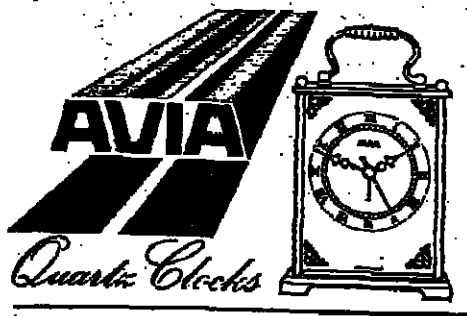
World Weather

Area	°C	°F	Area	°C	°F	Area	°C	°F	Area	°C	°F
Amsterdam	12	54	London	12	54	Madrid	13	55	Paris	12	54
Antwerp	12	54	Lyons	12	54	Rome	13	55	Stockholm	12	54
Berlin	12	54	Frankfurt	12	54	Vienna	13	55	Warsaw	12	54
Bombay	28	82	Geneva	12	54	Zurich	12	54			
Buenos Aires	18	64	Hamburg	12	54						
Calcutta	28	82	London	12	54						
Canton	18	64	Lyons	12	54						
Cebu	28	82	Madrid	13	55						
Colon	28	82	Paris	12	54						
Hankow	18	64	Rome	13	55						
Hong Kong	28	82	Stockholm	12	54						
Kobe	18	64	Warsaw	12	54						
Manila	28	82	Zurich	12	54						
Medan	28	82									
Shanghai	18	64									
Singapore	28	82									
Tientsin	18	64									
Yokohama	18	64									

Readings at mid-day yesterday.
C-Celsius, D-Degrees, F-Fahrenheit, H-High, L-Low.
S-Sun, ST-Storm, S-Snow, T-Thunder.

السؤال الأول

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SECTION II - COMPANIES AND MARKETS

FINANCIAL TIMES

Tuesday January 4 1983

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1983 OUTLOOK: INTERNATIONAL BONDS

Exchange rates may hold key

BY ALAN FRIEDMAN IN LONDON

THE INTERNATIONAL bond market enters 1983 with a legacy of triumph, resilience and innovation over the past 12 months. Although it has been said often enough to have become a cliché, 1982 was unquestionably the year in which the Eurobond market came of age: international bond issues reached a staggering \$71bn, this was not only a 35 per cent year-on-year increase, but it valued the size of the international credit market (\$82bn for 1982).

The Euro D-Mark bond market and the Swiss franc foreign bond sector also had a successful 1982, the West Germans recovering their position as a major source of international capital, after being slowed by the weakness of the D-Mark in 1981.

In the D-Mark and Swiss franc sectors, coupons for such issues as Australia (6½ per cent) and Philip Morris (5½ per cent) fell to levels not seen for more than two years.

These statistics, however, tell only part of the story. The world's capital markets have undergone what commentators like to term a "sea change" during the past 12 months, a fundamental change in both psychology and practice.

The U.S. Federal Reserve Board, wrestling with the combined problems of an international debt crisis and a recession-ridden American economy, has seemingly abandoned Mr Paul Volcker's monetarism and pushed interest rates lower.

Lending through international syndicated loans has contracted to such an extent that many sovereign borrowers are now examining the Eurobond market as an alternative source of capital in 1983.

Treasurers of U.S. corporations and utilities, who might a few years ago have needed turning on the spot by the *Wall Street Journal* and *Forbes*, now view the Eurobond market

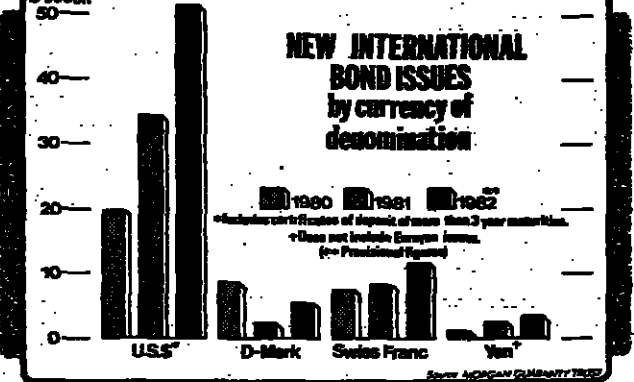
as a clear alternative to fund raising in the domestic market. The giants of American business - Triple-A names ranging from AT&T to Coca Cola - have come to Europe and borrowed money through the bond market more cheaply than they could have done at home.

Canada raised \$750m through a single bond issue, the largest ever in the market.

The Eurobond market, meanwhile, some 20 years after its inception, has become a more professional arena than before, yet it retains the sort of innovatory flair which

Nonetheless, certain assumptions are being made by the stewards of the Eurobond market. The first is an expectation that the U.S. Federal Reserve Board will bring the discount rate below its present level of 8½ per cent during the opening months of this year. A drop of 100 to 150 basis points is being mooted.

This expectation could make for a healthy new issue calendar this month and possibly during February as well, yet there is always the danger in the Eurobond market that new issues will be priced in anticipation of falling rates which do not materialise on schedule.



has produced zero coupon bonds, warrants, and more.

What do all these developments mean for this year? It is a bold claim to say, indeed who can look 12 months ahead. A year ago, at this time, Dr Henry Kaufman of Salomon Brothers said that the bond market rally was "75 per cent over" and he voiced concern about the size of the U.S. budget deficit.

Few bankers predicted a year ago either that Mexico would be forced to pay a record 12½ per cent coupon on a \$100m Eurodollar bond issue, or that a few months later, interest rates and yields would have declined sufficiently so that General Electric of the U.S. could offer a 10 per cent coupon on a \$200m issue, with only 15 per cent payable and the balance due in July 1984.

The market's habit of discounting discount rate cuts may provide a bullish atmosphere, but it has also produced issues which can depend upon a dramatic upturn to achieve full placement.

The main pitfall for the Eurobond market this year could well be the weakness of the U.S. dollar against other major currencies. The unusual strength of the dollar during much of 1982 was a key factor in the size of new issue volume.

As the dollar weakens, there are already signs of non-dollar based investor resistance.

The state of exchange rates in 1983 - and several forecasters are discussing a weaker dollar - will be a vital factor in governing the new issue volume of the Eurobond market. Already, the D-Mark, Swiss

franc and Yen bond markets have been buoyed by the rise of these currencies against the dollar toward the end of 1982.

Another unavoidable factor will be the continuing flight into quality. In a world of financial uncertainty (likely to include some rather depressing bank results from the U.S. this month), investors are searching harder than ever for quality, even if this means sacrificing yield.

Finally, there is the position of U.S. corporate borrowers in the Eurobond market: they raised a record \$12bn in 1982. The U.S. bond market has begun to show signs of greater flexibility through self-regulation. While this did not usurp the Eurobond market's lead in 1982, it does offer U.S. borrowers scope at home.

In addition, falling interest rates, combined with a weaker dollar, could make the U.S. market more attractive to some U.S. corporate borrowers. If all-in costs are cheaper and European investors are put off by a weak dollar, the U.S. corporate bond sector could rebound.

What does seem clear is that the broad-based borrowing of the Eurobond market will be back in force during 1983. These are the supranational institutions, the Scandinavians, the French state agencies and the Canadians. Added to these borrowers could be a much greater number of Japanese companies, utilities and state agencies searching for capital.

It is not surprising that many optimistic there is every reason for both Japanese and U.S. borrowers to step up convertible bond issues.

As for the secondary market in international bonds, which has just experienced one of its most profitable years ever, the outlook remains encouraging. Positive carry - the condition where the cost of financing overnight bond inventories is attractive compared to the interest earned on bonds held - exists, and a positive yield curve is always healthy for the market.

1983 OUTLOOK: CREDITS

Market faces further problems

BY PETER MONTAGNON, EUROMARKETS CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS as recently as October 1981 that President Ronald Reagan told the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund that the "magic of the marketplace" offered the best chances of solving the economic and financial problems of the developing world.

Since then, the succession of debt problems in Eastern Europe and Latin America has stripped the Eurocredit market of all its magic, leaving bankers at the start of 1983 as gloomy as they have ever been.

Last year, according to the provisional figures from Morgan Guaranty Trust, the volume of new Eurocredit lending dropped to \$22.2bn from \$133.3bn in 1981. Few predict any meaningful recovery in 1983.

Yet one, in any case, would expect the 1981 figures to be easily matched in the foreseeable future - they included an exceptional \$42.1bn in credits to U.S. corporations designed to finance the wave of huge mergers that overtook Wall Street in that summer. But one reason why even the 1982 numbers will be hard to match in 1983 is purely statistical.

The figures include \$7.95bn in new credits to Mexico that were arranged before its startling insolvency declaration of August 20. This total made Mexico the largest single borrower in the Eurocredit market last year. Its debt problems mean that it is now out of the market, at least for conventional syndicated loans.

What has happened in Mexico's case, as with other large Latin American borrowers in difficulty, is that banks are having to lend under duress. To keep the borrowers on the right track and the banking system intact, requirements for new money in 1983 are being met with commitments forced out of the banks in proportion to their existing exposure.

This is hardly the stuff of which a dynamic market is made and it encapsulates a basic problem facing international banks as they ponder the prospects for 1983.

The problem is stark enough. Banks are now living in a world where there is generally much less freedom of choice in lending. It is harder than before to choose to whom they should lend, and how much.

This is not only because of the massive \$36bn in new money and refinancing that has already had to be committed to Mexico, Brazil and Argentina for 1983.

The fact that this money is tied up means that there is less money available for lending elsewhere. Lack of confidence in the banking system, after a year of difficulties,

Even in the Far East, which has been one of the last bastions of buoyant lending, bankers are beginning to talk of an end to the era of low margins which has seen such countries as Malaysia and Indonesia raising 10-year money at a rate of only ½ per cent above London Eurodollar rates.

Moreover, these countries are facing competition from a new quarter in the form of oil exporters, who are returning to the capital markets to offset shortfalls in oil revenues. Members of Opec (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) increased their borrow-

cent on its \$44bn credit arranged in support of the franc last autumn.

A real test of the market should come quite soon. After a very quiet fourth quarter of 1982, bankers are expecting something of a rush of new loans from European countries as diverse as Denmark and Portugal.

How easily will this business be done? "I guess it's a matter of price," says one seasoned syndications manager. "Banks have tied up a lot of money in reschedulings and some have funding problems, so some increase in margins will have to come."

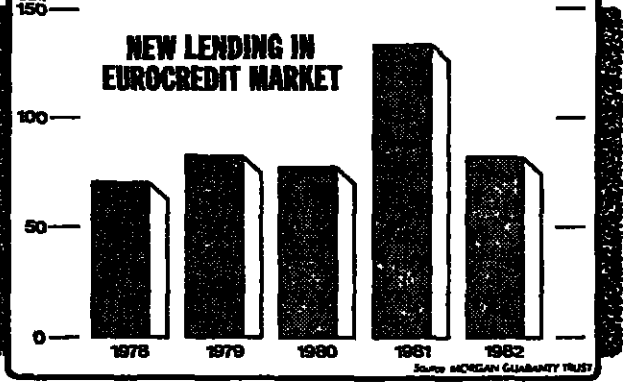
If this does finally happen, banks will begin to breathe more easily, as loan syndication starts to recover some of the profitability lost in the shippage of margins over the past few years.

Higher profits on new business are badly needed, to allow banks to set aside more earnings in the form of provisions against their growing list of bad and doubtful debts. Yet this alone would go only part of the way towards pulling the Eurocredit market out of its current depression.

Also needed are further falls in interest rates and a recovery in the world economy that would give some assurance that developing countries were able to continue servicing their debts.

Although the worst of the problems in Mexico, Argentina and Brazil appears to be over, there are still a number of smaller reschedulings pending in such countries as Costa Rica, Bolivia, and Ecuador. There are also signs of strain in countries like Yugoslavia and the Philippines.

It will take a long time for the banking system to work its way out of these problems. Some bankers argue that it will be 1984 before they can be sure how great, if any, was the lasting damage inflicted by the shocks of 1982. Meanwhile, it is a question of hoping that this year will at least be better than the year just ended.



is already making it harder for banks to attract new capital to fund their growing loan books.

For some banks, too, interbank money, essential to the funding of Eurocredits, has become much harder to obtain. This acts as a further constraint on their willingness to participate in new operations.

All this implies a lean year ahead for borrowers in developing countries, even if they have not yet been directly affected by the plague of arrears and rescheduling that has been sweeping Latin America.

Last year non-oil developing countries took \$26.07bn in new Eurocredits, compared with \$33.7bn in 1981, while the terms on which these loans were arranged began to harden markedly.

ing in the Eurocredit market last year to \$12.35bn from \$11.87bn. To the extent that some of them have now become rather rare names, banks are likely to rush to meet their demands in an attempt to diversify their overall loan books.

A more difficult question is what will happen to borrowers in the industrial world. Here banks have frequently predicted a rise in margins, only to see hopes dashed in the wake of intense competition for new business.

The industrial country borrowers still have the immense advantage of being "safe" risks in a dangerous world. Even after the Mexican crisis, some deals were still done at a low margin of ½ per cent, although France set a base margin of ¾ per cent just ended.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To Holders of

Azienda Autonoma Delle Ferrovie Dello Stato

8½% Sinking Fund Bonds Due 1986

Direct and Unconditional General Obligation of The Republic of Italy

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Sections 4 and 6 of the Fiscal Agency Agreement and Sections 5 and 6 of Exhibit A dated January 15, 1971 between Azienda Autonoma Delle Ferrovie Dello Stato, "Issuer" with the intervention of the Minister of the Treasury of the Republic of Italy and Chemical Bank, "Fiscal Agent", the bonds bearing the following serial numbers have been drawn for redemption on February 1, 1983 by operation of the Sinking Fund at the Redemption Price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to the date thereof, and that from and after such date fixed for redemption interest thereon will cease to accrue.

7	1308	2043	3005	4808	5874	6822	7214	8243	10078	10948	12232	13841	14830	15822	17057	18294	19174	20495	21475	22147	23510	24504
8	1309	2044	3006	4809	5875	6823	7215	8244	10079	10949	12233	13842	14831	15823	17058	18295	19175	20496	21476	22148	23511	24505
9	1310	2045	3007	4810	5876	6824	7216	8245	10080	10950	12234	13843	14832	15824	17059	18296	19176	20497	21477	22149	23512	24506
10	1311	2046	3008	4811	5877	6825	7217	8246	10081	10951	12235	13844	14833	15825	17060	18297	19177	20498	21478	22150	23513	24507
11	1312	2047	3009	4812	5878	6826	7218	8247	10082	10952	12236	13845	14834	15826	17061	18298	19178	20499	21479	22151	23514	24508
12	1313	2048	3010	4813	5879	6827	7219	8248	10083	10953	12237	13846	14835	15827	17062	18299	19179	20500	21480	22152	23515	24509
13	1314	2049	3011	4814	5880	6828	7220	8249	10084	10954	12238	13847	14836	15828	17063	18300	19180	20501	21481	22153	23516	24510
14	1315	2050	3012	4815	5881	6829	7221	8250	10085	10955	12239	13848	14837	15829	17064	18301	19181	20502	21482	22154	23517	24511
15	1316	2051	3013	4816	5882	6830	7222	8251	10086	10956	12240	13849	14838	15830	17065	18302	19182	20503	21483	22155	23518	24512
16	1317	2052	3014	4817	5883	6831	7223	8252	10087	10957	12241	13850	14839	15831	17066	18303	19183	20504	21484	22156	23519	24513
17	1318	2053	3015	4818	5884	6832	7224	8253	10088	10958	12242	13851	14840	15832	17067	18304	19184	20505	21485	22157	23520	24514
18	1319	2054	3016	4819	5885	6833	7225	8254	10089	10959	12243	13852	14841	15833	17068	18305	19185	20506	21486	22158	23521	24515
19	1320	2055	3017	4820	5886	6834	7226	8255	10090	10960	12244	13853	14842	15834	17069	18306	19186	20507	21487	22159	23522	24516
20	1321	2056	3018	4821	5887	6835	7227	8256	10091	10961	12245	13854	14843	15835	17070	18307	19187	20508	21488	22160	23523	24517
21	1322	2057	3019	4822	5888	6836	7228	8257	10092	10962	12246	13855	14844	15836	17071	18308	19188	20509	21489	22161	23524	24518
22	1323	2058	3020	4823	5889	6837	7229	8258	10093	10963	12247	13856	14845	15837	17072	18309	19189	20510	21490	22162	23525	24519
23	1324	2059	3021	4824	5890	6838	7230	8259	10094	10964	12248	13857	14846	15838	17073	18310	19190	20511	21491	22163	23526	24520
24	1325	2060	3022	4825	5891	6839	7231	8260	10095	10965	12249	13858	14847	15839	17074	18311	19191	20512	21492	22164	23527	24521
25	1326	2061	3023	4826	5892	6840	7232	8261	10096	10966	12250	13859	14848	15840	17075	18312	19192	20513	21493	22165	23528	24522
26	1327	2062	3024	4827	5893	6841	7233	8262	10097	10967	12251	13860	14849	15841	17076	18313	19193	20514	21494	22166	23529	24523
27	1328	2063	3025	4828	5894	6842	7234	8263	10098	10968	12252	13861	14850	15842	17077	18314	19194	20515	21495	22167	23530	24524
28	1329	2064	3026	4829	5895	6843	7235	8264	10099	10969	12253	13862	14851	15843	17078	18315	19195	20516	21496	22168	23531	24525
29	1330	2065	3027	4830	5896	6844	7236	8265	10100	10970	12254	13863	14852	15844	17079	18316	19196	20517	21497	22169	23532	24526
30	1331	2066	3028	4831	5897	6845	7237	8266	10101	10971	12255	13864	14853	15845	17080	18317	19197	20518	21498	22170	23533	24527
31	1332	2067	3029	4832	5898	6846	7238	8267	10102	10972	12256	13865	14854	15846	17081	18318	19198	20519	21499	22171	23534	24528
32	1333	2068	3030	4833	5899	6847	7239	8268	10103	10973	12257	13866	14855	15847	17082	18319	19199	20520	21500	22172	23535	24529
33	1334	2069	3031	4834	5900	6848	7240	8269	10104	10974	12258	13867	14856	15848	17083	18320	19200	20521	21501	22173	23536	24530
34	1335	2070	3032	4835	5901	6849	7241	8270	10105	10975	12259	13868	14857	15849	17084	18321	19201	20522	21502	22174	23537	24531
35	1336	2071	3033	4836	5902	6850	7242	8271	10106	10976	12260	13869	14858	15850	17085	18322	19202	20523	21503	22175	23538	24532
36	1337	2072	3034	4837	5903	6851	7243	8272	10107	10977	12261	13870	14859	15851	17086	18323	19203	20524	21504	22176	23539	24533
37	1338	2073	3035	4838	5904	6852	7244	8273	10108	10978	12262	13871	14860	15852	17087	18324	19204	20525	21505	22177	23540	24534
38	1339	2074	3036	4839	5905	6853	7245	8274	10109	10979	12263	13872	14861	15853	17088	18325	19205	20526	21506	22178	23541	24535
39	1340	2075	3037	4840	5906	6854	7246	8275	10110	10980	12264	13873	14862	15854	17089	18326	19206	20527	21507	22179	23542	24536
40	1341	2076	3038	4841	5907	6855	7247	8276	10111	10981	12265	13874	14863	15855	17090	18327	19207	20528	21508	22180	23543	24537
41	1342	2077	3039	4842	5908	6856	7248	8277	10112	10982	12266	13875	14864	15856	17091	18328	19208	20529	21509	22181	23544	24538
42	1343	2078	3040	4843	5909	6857	7249	8278	10113	10983	12267	13876	14865	15857	17092	18329	19209	20530	21510	22182	23545	24539
43	1344	2079	3041	4844	5910	6858	7250	8279	10114	10984	12268	13877	14866	15858	17093	18330	19210	20531	21511	22183	23546	24540
44	1345	2080	3042	4845	5911	6859	7251	8280	10115	10985	12269	13878	14867	15859	17094	18331	19211	20532	21512	22184	23547	24541
45	1346	2081	3043	4846	5912	6860	7252	8281	10116	10986	12270	13879	14868	15860	17095	18332	19212	20533	21513	22185	23548	24542
46	1347	2082	3044	4847	5913	6861	7253	8282	10117	10987	12271	13880	14869	15861	17096	18333	19213	20534	21514	22186	23549	24543
47	1348	2083	3045	4848	5914	6862	7254	8283	10118	10988	12272	13881	14870	15862	17097	18334	19214	20535	21515	22187	23550	24544
48	1349	2084	3046	4849	5915	6863	7255	8284	10119	10989	12273	13882	14871	15863	17098	18335	19215	20536	21516	22188	23551	24545
49	1350	2085	3047	4850	5916	6864	7256	8285	10120	10990	12274	13883	14872	15864	17099	18336	19216	20537	21517	22189	23552	24546
50	1351	2086	3048	4851	5917	6865	7257	8286	10121	10991	12275	13884	14873	15865	17100	18337	19217	20538	21518	22190	23553	24547
51	1352	2087	3049	4852	5918	6866	7258	8287	10122	10992	12276	13885	14874	15866	17101	18338	19218	20539	21519	22191	23554	24548
52	1353	2088	3050	4853	5919	6867	7259	8288	10123	10993	12277	13886	14875	15867	17102	18339	19219	20540	21520	22192	23555	24549
53	1354	2089	3051	4854	5920	6868	7260	8289	10124	10994	12278	13887	14876	15868	17103	18340	19220	20541	21521	22193	23556	24550
54	1355	2090	3052	4855	5921	6869	7261	8290	10125	10995	12279	13888	14877	15869	17104	18341	19221	20542	21522	22194	23557	24551
55	1356	2091	3053	4856	5922	6870	7262	8291	10126	10996	12280	13889	14878	15870	17105	18342	19222	20543	21523	22195	23558	24552
56	1357	2092	3054	4857	5923	6871	7263	8292	10127	10997	12281	13890	14879	15871	17106	18343	19223	20544	21524	22196	23559	24553
57	1358	2093	3055	4858	5924	6872	7264	8293	10128	10998	12282	13891	14880	15872	17107	18344	19224	20545	21525	22197	23560	24554
58	1359	2094	3056	4859	5925	6873	7265	8294	10129	10999	12283	13892	14881	15873	17108	18345	19225	20546	21526	22198	23561	24555
59	1360	2095	3057	4860	5926	6874	7266	8295	10130	11000	12284	13893	14882	15874	17109	18346	19226	20547	21527	22199	23562	24556
60	1361	2096	3058	4861	5927	6875	7267	8296	10131	11001	12285	13894	14883	15875	17110	18347	19227	20548	21528	22200	23563	24557
61	1362	2097	3059	4862	5928	6876	7268	8297	10132	11002	12286	13895	14884	15876	17111	18348	19228	20549	21529	22201	23564	24558
62	1363	2098	3060	4863	5929	6877	7269	8298	10133	11003	12287	13896										

THE OUTLOOK FOR 1983

U.S. BONDS

The Fed still calls the tune

BEING "STREET WISE" in New York is an elusive quality which has nothing to do with knowing which way the Dow or bond prices are about to jump.

That is the territory of Wall Street's economic gurus who dust off their crystal balls at this time of year, cast aside past blunders, and gaze intently into the future only to eventually tell their clients what they already knew: that nothing, particularly on Wall Street, is certain.

Consider events last year. Virtually everyone—including the Federal Reserve and the U.S. Government—failed to foresee the depth of the recession both in the U.S. and in the world economy.

At a result, most pundits also failed to anticipate the distinct mid-year shift in Fed operating policy. Some envisaging "recession" in forecasts took place while the Fed, with a few deft moves, camouflaged, conveniently the technical problems of interpreting some of the basic money supply measures, moved from what has been described as a dogmatic adherence to money supply targeting to the new pragmatic, flexible and as yet undefined "Volckerism."

That change, coupled with sharply lower inflationary expectations (the Fed's principal achievement to date), led to the sharp and largely unexpected drop in short-term interest rates. Bond and stock markets took off on a searing bull rally, the first stage of which is probably now over.

Liquidity problems

Thus while the U.S. economy speeded and concern grew about the liquidity problems of countries like Mexico, Brazil and Argentina, bond prices soared and short-term rates plunged. The prime rate, which stood at 13.75 per cent a year ago, has dropped to 11 per cent and other short-term rates have fallen still faster.

The yield on the Treasury long bond has dropped from 13.78 per cent 12 months ago to around 10.5 per cent while the yield on AA industrial bonds has fallen from 15.38 per cent to 11.13 per cent.

But despite these declines the inflation rate has fallen still faster, so that the real cost

of borrowing in the U.S. capital markets remains at a 30-year high.

This means the U.S. credit markets continue to provide some very healthy returns for the private investors, who have begun to return, as well as for the institutional fund managers who are still the backbone of the market. Yet the high cost of funds remains painful for borrowers and particularly for those in the corporate sector.

However, in the past six months the U.S. markets have

short-term debt had fallen to a low of 1.05 from nearly 1.12 at the end of 1980, and 1.9 at the end of 1971.

The Fed's actions this year—and perhaps of equal importance, what the Fed is perceived to be attempting to achieve—will have a critical impact on the corporate and other sectors of the credit markets.

For once almost all Wall Street's senior economists appear agreed. The year will see a "modest recovery," a continuing but perhaps slower

That presentation may also give the first real answer to the question of what the Fed intends to substitute for the largely abandoned M1 money supply measure as its guide in routine operations. Probably the Fed will move still further towards concentrating on the broader money measures and particularly in M3. The Fed may also launch a new measure of total bank credit as part of its new toolbox in the continuing battle against inflation.

A few months later speculation is likely to focus on the Fed again and on whether or not Mr Volcker gets another period of office. His present term is due to expire in August and while most of Wall Street thinks he has done a good job, the politicians seem less sure.

Continuing uncertainty

Looming large behind the scenes will be the continuing uncertainty over the mammoth \$160bn plus Federal budget deficit this year and the \$175bn plus Treasury borrowing requirement it implies.

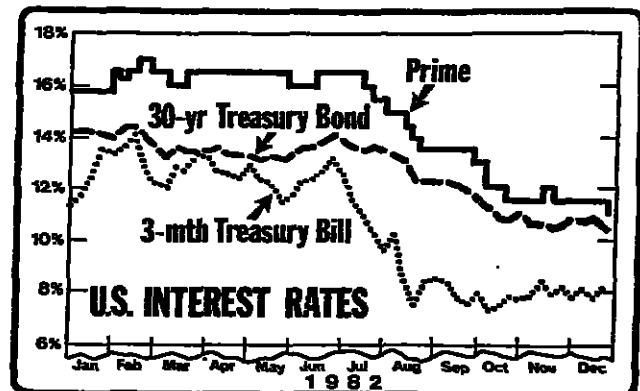
Despite the success of the market in swallowing last year's Treasury offerings, the deficit will probably continue to cause some short bursts of nervousness in the credit markets.

Over and above all else, however, the credit markets will continue to watch the Fed with hawk eyes. Specifically they will be watching for a sign—unlikely—that the Fed has given up to the political pressure and abandoned its longer term battle against inflation.

Such a perception—even if unjustified—could spark a reversal in the credit markets. The dangers for the U.S. economy and the wider financial system would be at least as great should the Fed decide to pull in the monetary reins too quickly with the onset of the recovery.

For the moment, at least, the immediate priority appears to be ensuring that the recovery, when it does come, is not snuffed out at birth. But for those with street knowledge the watchword for 1983 is "caution."

Paul Taylor



Carrian revises cash injection plan

BY ROBERT COTTRELL IN HONG KONG

SHARES WERE suspended in Hong Kong yesterday by Carrian, the troubled property concern, as the group announced revised plans for a HK\$500m (U.S.\$71m) cash injection.

The suspensions affect Carrian Investments (CII), the group's principal public company, whose assets are predominantly property. Grand Marine, the shipping group 61 per cent owned by CII, and China Underwriters, the insurance group 53 per cent owned by CII. The other main company in the Carrian group is Carrian Holdings, a private company which owns just over half of CII, and which is in turn owned by a nominee company.

Carrian's liquidity problems have been public knowledge since CII revoked its interim dividend on October 26. Advised by Wardley, the merchant bank, Carrian originally planned to raise cash through a HK\$500m preference share issue by CII which would have been subscribed equally by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, which is Wardley's parent and a leading lender to Carrian, and Carrian's ultimate owners, whose identities are shielded.

This plan has now been scrapped in favour of a proposed HK\$300m loan package. Carrian announced yesterday that the Hongkong Bank has declared its willingness to make available to CII a HK\$300m secured revolving credit facility. The Carrian group's unknown principal shareholders plan, meanwhile, to put up a HK\$250m loan on an unsecured basis. The shareholders' loan would not necessarily be to CII alone, but it is not known how it might be allocated among the public and private companies in the group. Nor is it known what security is being required.

Carrian said yesterday that loan finance is "more appropriate to the company's present circumstances" than a preference share issue. Analysts note that a secured loan gives the Hongkong Bank a superior charge over Carrian assets than it would obtain through a holding of preference shares. Carrian would also avoid a technical obligation to service preference share debt out of current profits.

With the possibility of write-downs and provisions to tidy up the Carrian balance sheet, the short-term profits picture is uncertain.

Little progress in Caterpillar pay dispute

BY RICHARD LAMBERT IN NEW YORK

IT HAS been a bleak Christmas at Peoria, Illinois, the Mid-Western town dominated by the Caterpillar Tractor Company. The giant machinery maker was struck by the United Automobile Workers Union on September 30, and there has been little progress towards a settlement in the intervening three months.

Desultory talks were held between the two sides in early December, but were suspended over the holiday period. No further negotiations are currently scheduled. Caterpillar says that the union has not responded to any of its proposals, while the union

says its members believe that the company deliberately forced a strike.

The issue at stake is whether a company which, though loss-making, is still financially sound can persuade its workers to accept significant changes in their pay structure in order to become more competitive in the international market place.

Caterpillar's weekly paid and salaried workers took pay cuts of up to 10 per cent this summer, and agreed to a 12 per cent cut in their cost of living allowances.

With its three-year labour contract running out in September, Caterpillar sought to impose a pay freeze, together with slashed down cost of

living allowances and cuts in other areas, like paid holidays. For its part, the union offered what was essentially an extension of the previous contract.

Depending on the rate of inflation, Caterpillar's offer could have added roughly 9 per cent to wages over the next three years, whereas the union's demands could have run to well over 20 per cent.

Over 20,000 UAW members are on strike. A further 14,000 were laid off before the dispute arose. Some 4,000 other workers have now been laid off as a result of the strike, and Caterpillar is not currently manufacturing any of its prime products in the U.S.

However there appears to be little shortage of Caterpillar equipment in the marketplace. Demand remains very flat, and in the third quarter the company took the precaution of shipping some \$900m of inventory to its dealers which would not normally have gone out until the final three months of the year.

Caterpillar took an 80-day strike when its last contract ran out in 1979, but the current dispute could be a lot more protracted. Both sides are sensitive about any parallels being drawn with International Harvester, which never recovered from a 172-day strike by the UAW in 1979.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Senior posts at Jardine Matheson

Mr David McLeod has been appointed deputy chairman of JARDINE MATHESON AND CO. from January 1. Mr McLeod, who has been managing director of Jardines since January 1, 1981, will hold this appointment until his retirement from Hong Kong at the end of 1983. From January 1, Mr Simon Kewick, who has been the managing director responsible for Jardine's international operations since July, will assume the additional responsibility for Jardine's Hong Kong operations in succession to Mr McLeod. Mr Kewick will continue to have overall responsibility for Jardine's operations both in Hong Kong and internationally.

Appointed an assistant director is Mr Anthony Nightingale, currently seconded to Olayan Sandi Holding Co. on an affiliate of Jardine's. Mr Nightingale, a general manager, group properties. He joined Jardines in 1969. General managers appointed by Jardines are: Mr Del Farrell, chief of Jardine Schindler (Far East) Holdings; and Mr Desmond Wigan, executive manager of Jardine China trading division and managing director of Jardine (China).

Mr Paul Kilham has been appointed group financial executive for MICRO FOCUS with financial responsibility for operations in the UK, U.S. and Japan.

Mr George P. Larouche has been elected a corporate vice-president and group executive for Bendix Limited in Bristol. He will have overall responsibility for Bendix European auto-



Mr George P. Larouche, including Bendix Limited in Bristol and Bendix Minter in Australia. His headquarters are in Paris.

THE LTV CORP. Dallas, has elected president and chief executive officer Mr Raymond A. Ray to the additional position of chairman. The election is subject to the confirmation in the U.S. Senate and subsequent resignation of the present chairman Mr Paul Thayer who has been nominated by President Reagan to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Racal Electronics has formed a new company in Hong Kong, RACAL ELECTRONICS (HONG KONG), to coordinate the group's sales and service and to develop its marine electronics business in the Far East. Mr Viv Hoyle has been appointed director and general manager of the marine division. The group sales and service centre is headed by Mr Brian Stewart. The board of directors includes: Mr David J. Parnell, managing director; Mr Viv Hoyle and Mr Brian Stewart.

FT INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE

U.S. DOLLAR	Issued	Bid	Offer	Day	Week	Yield
STRAIGHTS						
Astma Life 15 86/97	150	108	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Astma O/S Fin. 12 88	75	108	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Bank of Montreal 15 86/97	100	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
BHP Finance 14 88	160	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
BHP Finance 15 88	160	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
BK. Montreal 14 87	100	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
British Col. Hyd. 14 88	200	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
British Col. Hyd. 15 88	200	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Canada 14 87	750	110 1/4	110 1/4	110 1/4	110 1/4	12.62
Canada 14 87	750	110 1/4	110 1/4	110 1/4	110 1/4	12.62
Canada 12 88	110	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Canada 12 88	110	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Can. Pac. Sec. 14 88	75	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Can. Pac. Sec. 15 88	75	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Can. Pac. Sec. 16 88	75	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Com. Col. Int. 11 88	200	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Credit Suisse 10 88	100	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Credit Suisse 11 88	100	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Du Pont 11 86	150	98 1/2	98 1/2	98 1/2	98 1/2	11.25
Du Pont 14 88 WWV	200	107 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2	12.36
ED 10 88	100	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
ED 12 87	100	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
EIB 12 87	100	110 1/4	110 1/4	110 1/4	110 1/4	12.61
Exxon 14 88	50	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Exxon Dev. Can. 11 87	100	101 1/2	101 1/2	101 1/2	101 1/2	11.34
Forams 13 82	75	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Forams 13 82	75	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Gen. Elec. 12 88	100	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Gen. Elec. 12 88	100	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Gen. Oil Int. 14 88	125	107 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2	12.16
Gen. Oil Int. 15 88	125	107 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2	12.16
GNAC O/S Fin. 15 89	100	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Gulf Oil Fla. 12 87	100	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Gulf Oil Fla. Trade 12 87	100	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Hamam 12 88	100	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Manitoba Prov. 13 88	100	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Midland Int. Fin. 11 82	180	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	11.64
Midland Int. Fin. 12 82	180	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	11.64
New Brunswick 15 87	75	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Newfoundland 15 80	75	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Newfoundland 15 80	75	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Ontario Hydro 12 82	200	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
Ontario Hydro 14 88	100	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	108 1/2	12.67
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TECHNOLOGY

CELLULAR RADIO, CABLE TELEVISION, FLEXIBLE MANUFACTURING... AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The year technicians danced to political tunes

BY ALAN CANE AND GEOFFREY CHARLISH

IT WAS a year when politics took precedence over technology. The major issues involving technology — cable television, satellite communications and portable telephone systems (cellular radio) were driven before the public by commercial and political forces rather than advances in the laboratory.

It was, in fact, a year of consolidation rather than breakthrough, of realism rather than euphoria. Even the biggest and most powerful organisations realised that pushing back the frontiers was going to be harder and more expensive to achieve.

In communications, 1982 will certainly go down as the year in which some causally important moves were made. But in mobile communications for example, it was more a case of re-thinking the system than the application of any brand new technology. London, in common with many other western world cities, has exhausted its frequency allocations, with almost as many businesses waiting for a phone in their cars as there are already equipped.

So it was decided that cellular radio, already in action in Chicago, Washington, Tokyo and Scandinavia, would come to the UK. London will benefit first, with services offered by two consortia, one called Secel (BT/Securcom) and the other containing Racal, Hambro Bank and the U.S. radio company Millicom.

Outsider

Racal, it is now widely believed, succeeded in the "private" competition (Secel had been approved for some months) mainly because its up-front financial commitment was several times that of the others. It had, however, been seen as something of an outsider and publicly had hardly uttered a word.

But the two groupings will have to employ the same technical system and a decision is awaited. Motorola, the biggest mobile radio manufacturer, currently hopes that the Government choice will be the U.S.-based system called AMPS advanced mobile phone service.

At one time or another, BT is believed to have embraced NMT (Nordic Mobile Telephone system), AMPS and also the "European" front runner

MATSE. Propagated by Philips (of which Britain's Plessey is a member), MATSE was the subject of some considerable claims on channel capacity by its designers in October. In a London configuration (150 frequencies, 12 cells), it was stated that MATSE could "out-channel" AMPS by about three times.

The claim was soon refuted by Motorola which, apart from pointing out that MATSE existed mainly on paper, asserted that Motorola's channel-increasing directional aerial had been ignored.

The argument dragged on into November and December. Philips archly suggested that Europe should opt for a "superior" European system while Motorola, it seemed, was the only party able to demonstrate an up-and-running system, with miniature hand portables, in Washington DC.

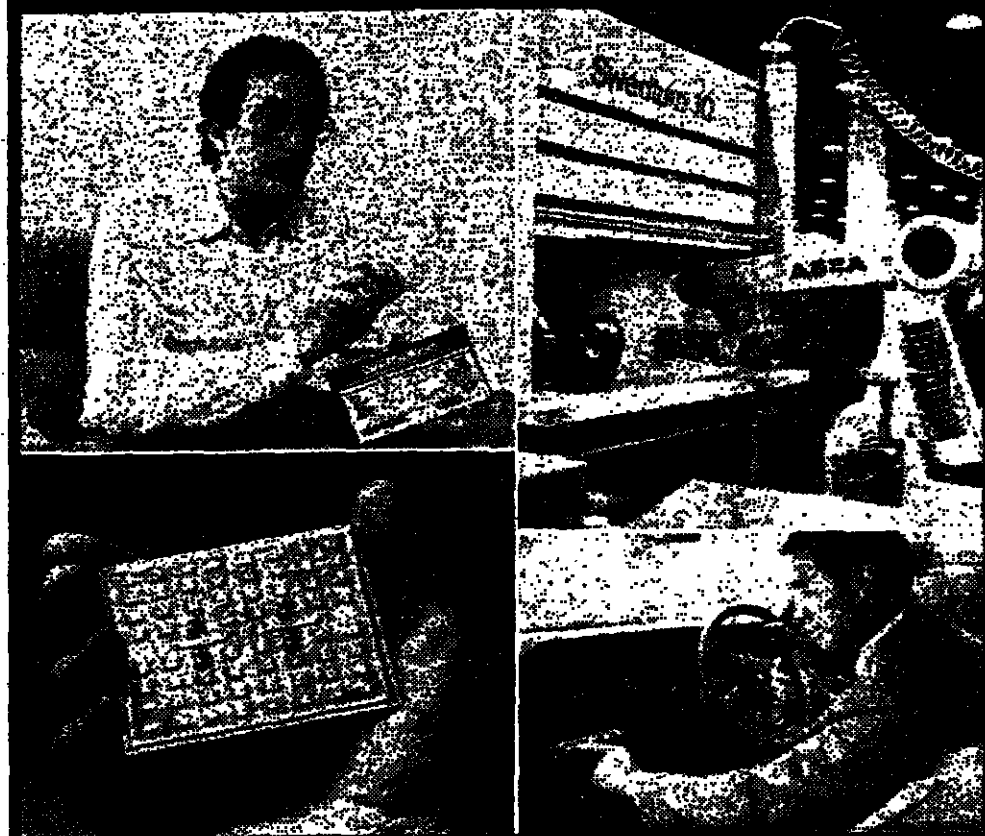
The decision is not many weeks away. Perhaps it will be as much a surprise as the choice of the private consortium.

A similar "two-camp" argument sprang up about broadband wiring of premises and homes in the second half of the year.

One of the camps, with Rediffusion and Thorn-EMI the champions, is mainly concerned with getting 30 channels of revenue-producing TV to many homes as soon as possible. So it favours a wiring system called "tree and branch" in which, in effect, all 30 channels are dropped off at each house for the user to choose with a set-top box. The system uses little broadband switching outside the houses, and is relatively cheap.

The other camp, led by BT, its suppliers and the cable makers, favours sending the complete channel set only as far as street-installed switches, from which selected services are then sent to each house or office.

Such a system, it is claimed, would eventually allow much easier "non-TV" two-way data communications for information services, banking, shopping and so on. Others argue however, that if the progress of viewdata is anything to go by, the desire for such things by householders is limited, to say the least. Business communications are a different matter, although here BT finds itself in an odd position, since it is at



Images of '82: left, computers in the hand—at the top, portable machines come of age, bottom, the heart of Hewlett's current mode logic mainframe. Top right, robots feed lathes in the automated factory, bottom right, ring somebody, somewhere... from anywhere.

ready developing extensive packet switching systems for business data.

Once again, in all this the technology is almost a minor consideration, although some development of cheap broadband switching is called for. In reality, it is much more a matter of determining accurately the real needs of the public and its willingness to pay up. Whose crystal ball will be the best?

During the year, both GEC and Thorn-EMI made announcements about possible communications, while BICC showed how signals could be sent over optical fibre along the nation's grid towers. Just what opportunities might arise for further development of this massive copper network for signal transmission remains to be seen.

That other major area affecting the efficiency of British industry — manufacturing — also

attracted attention during the year with much talk about FMS, flexible manufacturing systems.

In FMS, instead of dedicating production lines to single products it becomes possible to make many different items of the same general size and kind on one line, on a series basis. Computers, conveyors, robots, tool changers — all work together and change their actions to make a specific product on demand.

While IBM has poured millions of dollars into its chip fabrication plans in the U.S. and Europe, it uses the brilliant Intel 8088 microprocessor in its

much-acclaimed Personal Computer (a machine IBM has yet to market in Europe). The 8088 is a half-way house between the industry standard 8-bit machines (which handle binary digits eight at a time) and the newer, faster 16-bit computers.

Now only a few years ago, the price of computers was determined largely by the price of the central processing unit, the CPU, the part of the processor that processed either eight bits or 16 bits at a time.

What emerged this year was a paradigm for microcomputer manufacturers. With a large number of eight-bit machines out in the field, users had a wide range of software packages to choose from, packages like Visicalc, the financial modeller, and its lookalikes. Although perfectly respectable 16-bit chips were becoming available and the first of the 16-bit micros were on the market, there was a dearth of good 16-bit software. The answer? Hang the expense and shove an eight-bit and a 16-bit processor in the same box and make them switchable. With the cost of 16-bit chips down to a few dollars, it hardly pushes the cost of the system up exorbitantly.

First of the "popular" manufacturers to develop a machine that could emulate other machines was Commodore — its Model 64 could emulate an Apple II or an IBM simply by the addition of an extra microprocessor circuit board.

But while the microcomputer manufacturers were sorting out the eight-bit/16-bit software output, the microchip manufacturers were pushing the business on.

In 1981, Intel created a stir by announcing a set of three chips making up a 32-bit microprocessor. In February last year, Hewlett Packard topped this by announcing a 32-bit microprocessor chip that crammed 660,000 devices onto a single chip. A six-chip set, processor, memory, clock and input/output controllers gave the performance of a medium-sized mainframe.

Then late last year, NCR — a computer dark horse in the microelectronics stakes — upped the ante by announcing a set of four chips with the computing power of an IBM 370, along the industry mainframe standard. It was a

32-bit chip set, but it was ten times faster than the three-chip Intel set of 1981.

All of this activity had a number of important effects. Suddenly, British microcomputer specialists decided it had left the field of very small computers to Clive Sinclair for long enough and a cascade of new, sophisticated and ingenious machines appeared on the market — the Dragon and the Torch, to mention only two, as good as anything the U.S. could offer.

Portable microcomputers began to look like more than just an expensive new toy for businessmen. The way was led by hand-held portable terminals — "electronic notepads" — which could be used to replace clerical jobs in a number of applications — stores, banks and shops — but 1982 saw the introduction of portable terminals with substantial memory and processing capability, making them suitable for use by scientists and tradesmen.

Public utilities soon found uses for the new devices as did organisations with large numbers of van salesmen. At the top end of the computer spectrum, the battle royal continued. Cray Research stayed out in front with its absurdly fast Cray 1 X-MP, suitable for meteorological modelling and oil prospecting.

Faster

Will Cray announce the Cray-2 this year, an even faster machine relying on immersion cooling to keep its circuits from burning out?

Makers of commercial large mainframes continued to vie for position with IBM's 308X range the target to shoot for. Everybody started to look to water cooling to remove heat from their increasingly densely packed chip assemblies. An interesting debate over IBM's technology for the future, the "thermal conduction module" developed; the chief point of contention being how IBM intends to pack these water cooled cells in its machines of tomorrow.

The notion that companies would turn dramatically to electronic office systems was well and truly exploded in 1982.

Most agree that the introduction of word processing, electronic messaging, computerised filing and automatic diary-keeping will be a firm but

SITES, DESIGN, FINANCE, CONSTRUCTION

More than builders

(0462) 4444

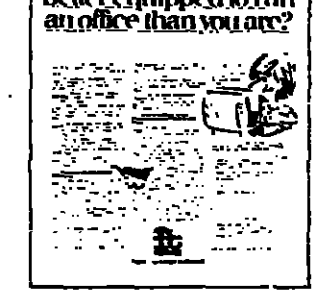
Hunting Gate

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gradual process. There would be no bonanza... and the odds again favoured the bigger companies with funds to finance continued research and development.

For biotechnology, it was a quiet year, with the battle between Novartis and Eli Lilly of the U.S. for the world insulin market hogging much of the limelight. Biotechnology shares stabilised, as investors realised that there was no prospect of getting rich quick in gene manipulation.

It was, of course, Information Technology Year. A MORI study showed that the level of information technology awareness among the general public grew from 17 per cent to 62 per cent during the year; trades unionists were more aware of IT and microelectronics than non trades unionists. Some 90 per cent of businessmen thought IT would make companies more productive and competitive.



Is your seven-year-old better equipped to run an office than you are?

Transistor

As readers have pointed out, our article published on December 23 last year subtracted a decade from the age of the transistor. Bardeen and Brattain switched on their new device on December 23, 1947.

Combustion analyser

The combustion analyser launched by Kane-May of Welwyn Garden City costs under £500, not £5,000 as published on December 15 last year.

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

**REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE
DEMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE**
(ALGERIAN POPULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)
**MINISTRE DE L'ENERGIE ET DES
INDUSTRIES PETROCHIMIQUES**
(MINISTRY FOR ENERGY AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES)
ENTREPRISE NATIONALE SONATRACH
(SONATRACH — NATIONAL COMPANY)

NOTICE OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS

The "Direction des Travaux Pétroliers" (Directorate for the Oil Industry) is launching a National and International Call for Tenders for the supply of:

ITEM No. 1 — EIGHT CRANES WITH A CAPACITY OF 20 TONNES.

ITEM No. 2 — TWO CRANES WITH A CAPACITY OF 36 TONNES.

This Call for Tenders is intended for Manufacturing Companies only, and excludes amalgamations, representatives of companies and any other intermediaries in compliance with the provisions of Law No. 78-02, dated 11 February 1978, relating to State Monopoly on Foreign Trade.

Tenders interested in this Call for Tenders may obtain the specifications relating thereto from: **ENTREPRISE NATIONALE SONATRACH (ALGIERS)** - Département Approvisionnement et Transports (Department for Supplies and Transport) with effect from the date on which this notice is published.

Tenders, of which five (5) copies should be prepared, must be sent to the Chef de Département Approvisionnement et Transports (Head of the Department for Supplies and Transport), by registered mail, in a double sealed envelope, bearing the words "APPEL D'OFFRES NATIONAL ET INTERNATIONAL NO. 9099/AR/MEC A ne pas ouvrir — confidentiel" (NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS NO. 9099/AR/MEC — Do not open — confidential).

Tenders should be sent to arrive by Saturday, 12 FEBRUARY 1983, at the very latest.

Any tenders arriving after this date shall be considered as cancelled.

The outer envelope of the offer should be anonymous and should bear no inscription or logo indicating the origin thereof.

The selection will be made within 180 days from the closing date of this Call for Tenders.

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

**MINISTRY OF RECONSTRUCTION AND STATE
FOR HOUSING AND LAND RECLAMATION**
**THE ORGANISATION FOR THE EXECUTION OF
THE GREATER CAIRO WASTE WATER PROJECT**
(At junction of Galia Street and Orabi Street, Cairo)
(8th Floor)

POSTPONEMENT

PUBLIC TENDER NO. 1 FOR 1982/1983

**FOR THE SUPPLY AND ERECTION OF
MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL
PLANT-AMERICA-PUMPING STATION**

The Organisation gives notice of the postponement of the opening date of the above-mentioned tender from Monday 3rd January 1983, as previously advertised, to Monday 31st January 1983 at 12.00 noon.

All conditions mentioned in the previous advertisement remain unchanged.

**REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE
DEMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE**
(ALGERIAN POPULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)
**MINISTRE DE L'ENERGIE ET DES
INDUSTRIES PETROCHIMIQUES**
(MINISTRY FOR ENERGY AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES)
ENTREPRISE NATIONALE SONATRACH
(SONATRACH — NATIONAL COMPANY)

NOTICE OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS

The "Direction des Travaux Pétroliers" (Directorate for the Oil Industry) is launching a National and International Call for Tenders for the supply of:

ITEM No. 1 — FIVE FORK-LIFT TRUCKS WITH A CAPACITY OF FIVE (5) TONNES.

ITEM No. 2 — EIGHT FORK-LIFT TRUCKS WITH A CAPACITY OF THIRTEEN (13) TONNES.

This Call for Tenders is intended for Manufacturing Companies only, and excludes amalgamations, representatives of companies and any other intermediaries in compliance with the provisions of Law No. 78-02, dated 11 February 1978, relating to State Monopoly on Foreign Trade.

Tenders interested in this Call for Tenders may obtain the specifications relating thereto from: **ENTREPRISE NATIONALE SONATRACH (ALGIERS)** - Département Approvisionnement et Transports (Department for Supplies and Transport) with effect from the date on which this notice is published.

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Tenders should be sent to arrive by Saturday, 12 FEBRUARY 1983, at the very latest.

Any tenders arriving after this date shall be considered as cancelled.

The outer envelope of the offer should be anonymous and should bear no inscription or logo indicating the origin thereof.

The selection will be made within 180 days from the closing date of this Call for Tenders.

**REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE
DEMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE**
(ALGERIAN POPULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)
**MINISTRE DE L'ENERGIE ET DES
INDUSTRIES PETROCHIMIQUES**
(MINISTRY FOR ENERGY AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES)
ENTREPRISE NATIONALE SONATRACH
(SONATRACH — NATIONAL COMPANY)

NOTICE OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS

The "Direction des Travaux Pétroliers" (Directorate for the Oil Industry) is launching a National and International Call for Tenders for the supply of:

ITEM No. 1 — (05) ELECTRIC TRUCKS WITH A CAPACITY OF 2.5 TONNES.

ITEM No. 2 — (02) TRAILER ELECTRIC TRUCKS WITH A CAPACITY OF 2.5 TONNES.

This Call for Tenders is intended for Manufacturing Companies only, and excludes amalgamations, representatives of companies and any other intermediaries in compliance with the provisions of Law No. 78-02, dated 11 February 1978, relating to State Monopoly on Foreign Trade.

Tenders interested in this Call for Tenders may obtain the specifications relating thereto from: **ENTREPRISE NATIONALE SONATRACH (ALGIERS)** - Département Approvisionnement et Transports (Department for Supplies and Transport) with effect from the date on which this notice is published.

Tenders, of which five (5) copies should be prepared, must be sent to the Chef de Département Approvisionnement et Transports (Head of the Department for Supplies and Transport), by registered mail, in a double sealed envelope, bearing the words "APPEL D'OFFRES NATIONAL ET INTERNATIONAL NO. 9099/AR/MEC A ne pas ouvrir — confidentiel" (NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS NO. 9099/AR/MEC — Do not open — confidential).

Tenders should be sent to arrive by Saturday, 12 FEBRUARY 1983, at the very latest.

Any tenders arriving after this date shall be considered as cancelled.

The outer envelope of the offer should be anonymous and should bear no inscription or logo indicating the origin thereof.

The selection will be made within 180 days from the closing date of this Call for Tenders.

**REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE
DEMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE**
(ALGERIAN POPULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)
MINISTRE DE LA CULTURE
(MINISTRY OF ARTS)
**SOCIETE NATIONALE D'EDITION
ET DE DIFFUSION (S.N.E.D.)**
(NATIONAL PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTION COMPANY)
8, Rue Med Arezki Ben Bouzid, El Amassers, Algiers

OPEN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS—NUMBER 47-01/83

An open National and International Call for Tenders is being launched with respect to the supply of:

TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT (FOR THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT).

Interested companies may obtain the specifications from the following address:

S.N.E.D., Unité Papeterie (Stationary Unit), 8, Rue Med Arezki Ben Bouzid, El Amassers - Alger (Algiers), for a sum of 200.00 DA.

Tenders must be filed within 45 days from the date on which this notice is published.

Tenders must be sent by post to the above-mentioned address in a double sealed envelope.

The outer envelope must be completely anonymous, bearing no information which might identify the company.

The said envelope should bear the following wording only: S.N.E.D. - Unité Papeterie, 8, Rue Med Arezki Ben Bouzid, El Amassers - Alger (Algiers), AVIS D'APPEL D'OFFRES NATIONAL ET INTERNATIONAL NO. 47-01/83, CONFIDENTIEL - NE PAS OUVRIRE - D.D.P. Service des Marchés (OPEN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS NO. 47-01/83, CONFIDENTIAL ENVELOPE - DO NOT OPEN - D.D.P. CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT).

Tenders shall remain bound by their offers for a period of 90 days.

Offers must be accompanied by the following documentation or they shall not be considered valid.

(A) National Companies and Companies in the Private Sector:

— Articles of Association of the company.

— Fiscal position.

— Declaration to be signed.

— Bid.

— List of main shareholders, partners and management staff.

(B) Foreign companies:

— Articles of Association of the company.

— Declaration to be signed.

— Bid.

— Fiscal position in Algeria and in the country in which their registered office is located.

— Latest balance sheet.

— List of the main shareholders and partners.

— Declaration that the company does not have recourse to intermediaries, in accordance with Law 78/02 of 11.2.1982 relating to State Monopoly on Foreign Trade.

INDECO LIMITED

ZAMBIA TENDER NOTICE NO. ZAM COFFEE PROJECT 150
ZAMBIA COFFEE PROJECT

On behalf of Rucon Industries Limited, Indeco Limited hereby invites tenders from qualified manufacturers of coffee processing machinery and equipment, to be installed at their Coffee Scheme at Kasama.

Tender documents may be obtained from Director of Projects, Indeco Limited, Indeco House, P.O. Box 31935 Lusaka, and upon payment of Zambian Kwacha 200 in cash or bank certified cheque or in any negotiable equivalent in foreign currency. Copies can also be obtained from Zambia Engineering Services Limited whose address is given below.

These documents will be available from 15th January 1983. Tenders must be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked "Zambia Coffee Project Tender".

The closing date for the receipt of tenders is the 10th March 1983 by 12.00 hours local Zambian time.

Director of Projects
INDECO LIMITED
P.O. Box 31935
Lusaka, Zambia.

ZAMBIA ENGINEERING SERVICES LIMITED
P.O. Box 112
Project Department
International House
Ainslie Road
Kensington 1213 1HY
United Kingdom

Tender for the Provision of Engineering Personnel for The Falkland Islands

Repair of Streets and Services

On behalf of the Administration of the Falkland Islands, Crown Agents have been authorised to seek applications from experienced British Civil Engineering Contractors for the provision of supervisory staff, tradesmen, and labour for a Works Unit within the Public Works Department. The task will be to carry out urgent repairs to streets and services within the Stanley area.

The unit will require approximately 25 personnel at Works Supervisor, Foreman, Fitter, Operative and trade grades, all to be well experienced in overseas work in arduous conditions, and it is intended that a Contractor with a proven overseas track record should provide them on an agency basis, being responsible for all recruitment and personnel matters and for replacement of individuals where necessary.

The team must be ready to move early in February 1983 and the initial contract will be for a period of up to eight months duration. Crown Agents will be responsible for arranging provision of all materials, plant, accommodation and catering facilities. These requirements may in part be handled through the successful contractor.

Interested contractors should apply immediately by telex to:

Crown Agents
Tx 916205
CALONG G
(For attention Mr. A.C. Morris)

giving outline of recent overseas contracts portfolio. Expressions of interest will be accepted up to 2.30 pm on 5th January 1983.

SEVERN TRENT WATER AUTHORITY

TAME DIVISION

Wolverhampton Water Supply

The Tame Division of the Severn Trent Water Authority is currently preparing a specification for a telemetry system to monitor and control the Wolverhampton Water Supply.

The Scheme will be implemented in two phases:

— Supply of a Supervisory Control Data Acquisition system (S.C.A.D.A.) comprising telemetry outstations and a dual hot standby computer-based master station.

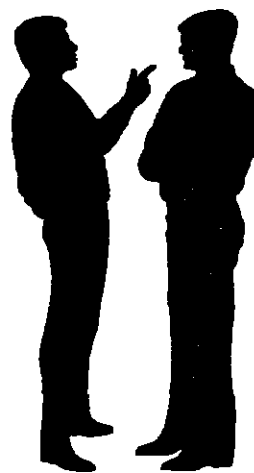
— Supply of an automated control system, which will require control and prediction programs written by other agencies to be interfaced to the S.C.A.D.A. system.

Any company wishing to be considered for the tender list for this project should apply in writing to the Divisional Quantity Surveyor, Newhall Street, Birmingham, not later than 31st January, 1983.

Michaelmas Term: digest of cases

FROM OCTOBER 12 TO NOVEMBER 5, 1982

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[illegible]

5) bank to honour cheques on their

Further digests of cases reported in the Michaelmas Term will be published tomorrow and on Friday.

By Aviva Golden

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NOTES

Prices are in Pence unless otherwise indicated and those designated \$ with no prefix refer to U.S. dollars. Yield % (shown in last column) allow for buying expenses. Offered prices include all expenses in today's prices. c Yield based on offer price. d Estimated. e Today's opening price. f Distribution free of UK taxes. g Periodic premium insurance plans. h Single premium insurance. i Offered price includes all expenses except agent's commission. j Offered price includes all expenses except enough margin. k Previous day's price. l Guaranteed. m Ex-substitution. n Yield before Jersey tax. t Ex-substitution. ** Only available to charitable bodies. g Yield column shows annualized rate of NAV increase.

INSURANCE

Consumer stands to lose in life companies' commissions battle

BY ERIC SHORT

MOST BIG battles in World War I commenced with a massive artillery barrage before the combatants came to grips on the invariably bloody battlefields. The first battle in the commissions war between life companies, which starts today, the first working day of the New Year, has been preceded by a barrage of words from some life companies indicating a battle of some magnitude in the weeks ahead.

A commissions war looked likely in September, when the Life Offices Association (LOA), the consortium of 12 major life companies, including all eight member companies of Aslo, launched a pre-emptive strike. These companies said they did not intend to continue as before from January 1, 1983, and that they intended to operate an orderly market where intermediaries knew exactly where they stood. So the consortium announced its own commission scale to replace the old one for as long as it took for the action group to produce a new agreement. The announcement has thrown the market into a complete state of confusion and possibly shattered any hopes of agreement by the action group.

The consortium is attacking non-member life companies over linked business by putting up the basic commission rate on Single Premium Investment Bonds from 10 per cent to 12 per cent and then paying registered brokers a further 15 per cent of the commission (that is 5.175 per cent) and other full-time intermediaries an extra 10 per cent (4.95 per cent). This has brought strong criticism from the Unit Trust Association whose members can only pay a maximum of 3.25 per cent on direct unit trust sales.

The consortium has also turned its guns on intermediaries who produce traditional life business by the introduction of the difference Building societies and part-time intermediaries will get the same commission as before from the consortium.

The consortium initially invited other life companies to join in and help a meeting before its announcement to explain its actions. It is understood the meeting was far from friendly and that the consortium has attacked, for preventing direct sales, a far-reaching compromise. Since the announcement, other traditional life companies that had intended to maintain the previous scale at least temporarily are announcing their new commission rates for 1983.

The scene is set for a shambles, and it will be the consumer who pays the price of higher commissions. The situation has deteriorated so much that it can be resolved only by action from a strong chief executive overruling the life assurance industry.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling recovers after early fall

Sterling recovered from a weak start in currency markets on Friday to finish unchanged at 17.33 to the dollar. Its trade-weighted index closed at 84.3, the same as Thursday's close, having stood at 84.0 at noon and 83.9 at the opening. Trading was very thin throughout the day and small selling orders in the morning may have reflected nervousness over recent reports suggesting lower oil prices. However, the pound made up ground during the afternoon to finish at

\$1.0170-1.0180 against the dollar, a fall of 40 points. Sterling fell to DM 3.8450 against the D-mark on Thursday. The D-mark rose to DM 3.8550 from DM 3.8500, compared with FF 10.8850 against the French franc. It was, however, at Y330 from Y375 against the Japanese yen, and improved in terms of the Swiss franc to Sfr 2.4500 from Sfr 2.4000. The dollar finished slightly firmer overall helped by year-end pressure pushing up short-term interest rates in the U.S.

Federal funds were quoted as high as 14 per cent at one point before settling back to around 12 per cent. Against the D-mark the dollar eased to DM 2.3775 from DM 2.3780 but rose against the Swiss franc to Sfr 2.0075 from Sfr 2.000. It was also higher against the Japanese yen at Y234.50 from Y233.50 and FF 6.7350 from FF 6.7300. On Bank of England figures the dollar's trade-weighted index rose to 118.5 from 118.2. The Belgian franc continued to

EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

ECU	Central rates	January 7	% change	% change	Divergence
Belgium Franc	45.3507	45.3507	+0.76	+1.09	+1.5901
Dutch Guilder	3.6033	3.6033	+0.76	+1.09	+1.5901
French Franc	6.5596	6.5596	+0.76	+1.09	+1.5901
German D-Mark	3.3063	3.3063	+0.76	+1.09	+1.5901
Irish Punt	7.8756	7.8756	+0.76	+1.09	+1.5901
Italian Lira	1.936	1.936	+0.76	+1.09	+1.5901

OTHER CURRENCIES

Dec. 31				£	Note Rates
	1	2	3		
Argentina Peso	78.428-78.468	45.350-46.570		Austria	96.95 27.25
Australia Dollar	1.4940-1.4950	1.0205 1.0210		Belgium	77.70-78.70
Canada Dollar	1.2320-1.2330	1.0205 1.0210		France	200.00 200.00
Denmark Krone	16.46-16.47	1.0205 1.0210		Germany	10.80 10.95
Finland Markka	5.9455-5.9780	5.8785 5.9300		Greece	3.51 3.95
France Franc	112.15-112.16	6.47 6.48		Hong Kong	200.00 200.00
Hong Kong Dollar	10.44-10.45	53.20		India	379.58
Indonesia Rupiah	1,575-1,576	0.265 0.266		Japan	200.00 200.00
Italy Lira	1,336-1,337	1.688 1.688		Netherlands	1.60 1.62
Korea Won	200.00	0.416-0.417		New Zealand	1.12 1.14
Malaysia Ringgit	2.34-2.35	2.310-2.310		Portugal	166.64 175
Netherlands Guilder	3.6033	1.0170-1.0180		Spain	166.64 175
Norway Krone	4.75-4.76	1.0170-1.0180		Sweden	11.72 11.84
Portugal Escudo	200.00	1.0170-1.0180		Switzerland	2.00 2.00
Saudi Arab. Ryal	5.9455-5.9785	1.0170-1.0180		Taiwan	20.00 20.00
Singapore Dollar	1.336-1.337	1.0170-1.0180		Thailand	50.00 50.00
Taiwan Dollar	20.00	1.0170-1.0180		UK Pound	1.0170-1.0180
Thailand Baht	50.00	1.0170-1.0180		USA Dollar	1.0000
UK Pound	1.0170-1.0180	1.0170-1.0180		Yugoslavia	118.14

FORWARD RATES AGAINST STERLING

	Spot	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Dollar	1.6775	1.6180	1.6135	1.6113	1.6083
D-Mark	3.8450	3.8200	3.8038	3.7854	3.8944
French Franc	10.8850	11.02	11.29	11.8475	
Swiss Franc	2.3450	3.2250	3.1900	3.1418	3.0420
Japanese Yen	380.0	378.7	376.8	373.7	381.4

BANK OF ENGLAND TREASURY BILL TENDER

Dec. 31	Dec. 24	Dec. 31	Dec. 24
Bill on offer	£100m	£100m	£100m
Applications	£41,500m	£44,935m	£44,935m
Total allocated	£100m	£100m	£100m
Unallocated	£58,500m	£55,065m	£55,065m
Acceptance	£97,575	£97,575	£97,575
Adjustment	71%	80%	80%

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

Dec. 31	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Index	Dec. 31*	Bank rate %	Special Drawing rate %	European Currency rate
sterling	84.3	-87.0	sterling	8 1/2	0.581385	0.600399
U.S. dollar	118.6	+9.4	U.S. dollar	10.00	1.10482	0.957687
Australian dollar	121.1	+28.7	Canadian \$	10.00	1.10482	1.19826
Belgian franc	84.1	-1.9	Sveigian F	11 1/2	1.54440	0.53287
Deutsche mark	128.9	+56.8	Danish kr.	10	3.85000	0.32014
French franc	119.1	+27.1	Guilder	5	8.86600	0.64206
Gr. drachma	74.5	-18.1	Lira	18	1510.70	1328.70
Japanese yen	143.9	+35.0	Yen	5 1/2	256.380	287.160
Yen	143.9	+35.0	Norwegian k.	10	136.770	121.491
			Spanish Pta.	16	166.640	166.640
			Swiss Fr.	4 1/2	2.19890	1.93029
			Greek Dr.	80 1/2	n.a.	68.5396

*Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December 1971.

Bank of England index (base average 1970=100)

Please note that the SDR rates are as of 12/31/71

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December 1971. Bank of England index (base average 1975=100).

CURRENCY RATES

Dec. 31	Jan. 4	% change	One month	% Three months	% Six months	
Argentina LUK*	1,610.16-1,621.0	1,617.01-1,618.0	0.18-1.32 pct	1.15	0.45-0.38 pct	0.88
Ireland	1,391.01-1,400.0	1,393.11-1,393.0	0.82-0.72 pct	6.83	21.14-1.83 pct	5.82
Belgium	1,231.01-1,239.0	1,232.01-1,232.0	0.07-0.11 pct	-0.88	0.24-0.28 pct	-0.83
Canada	1,010.01-1,011.0	1,010.01-1,011.0	0.00-0.00 pct	0.00	0.00-0.00 pct	0.00
Denmark	46.80-46.85	46.81-46.83	28-23c	2.74	5.54-5.58 pct	-5.37
Finland	8,300.01-8,304.0	8,300.01-8,305.0	31-50c	6.08	12.14-1.61 pct	-5.44
France	2,959.21-2,960.0	2,959.21-2,960.0	29-45c	4.49	2.51-1.51 pct	2.38
Germany	88.00-91.00	88.00-91.00	100-300c	-28.67	300-300 pct	-28.67
Greece	124.80-125.00	125.25-125.75	65-95c	-7.68	22.80-22.80 pct	-7.81
Hong Kong	10.44-10.45	10.44-10.45	29-45c	2.74	5.54-5.58 pct	-5.37
Norway	7,640.01-7,650.0	7,650.01-7,650.0	2.80-3.80c	-5.81	7.90-5.80c	-7.46
Portugal	6,725.01-6,730.0	6,738.75-6,735.0	9-12c	-14.71	26.33 pct	-17.62
Spain	166.64-166.65	166.64-166.65	166-166c	0.00	0.00-0.00 pct	0.00
Japan	234.20-236.20	234.75-234.85	0.65-0.57c	3.07	1.45-1.30 pct	2.34
Australia	16.46-16.47	16.47-16.48	4c-9c	2.15	12.14-1.61 pct	5.70
South Africa	2,007.51-2,008.0	2,007.51-2,008.0	2,007-2,008c	2.00	2.00-2.00 pct	2.00

* LUK and Ireland are quoted in U.S. currency. Forward symbols and

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

	Day's spread	Close	One month	% Three months	%
Dec. 31					
U.S.	1.0046-1.0050	1.0170-1.0180	0.16-0.12 pm	1.15	0.06 pm
Canada	1.0691-1.0710	1.0875-1.0905	0.08 pm-0.02 dia	0.18	0.20-0.10 pm
Netherlands	4.23-4.24	4.24-4.29	21-16 pm	5.68	54.04 pm
Germany	3.30-3.31	3.30-3.31	20-16 pm	5.69	54.04 pm
Denmark	10.50-10.57	10.54-10.59	5-11csm dia	-8.74	-28.21 pm
Sweden	1.1520-1.1530	1.1575-1.1600	0.41-0.59p dia	-1.18	1.20-1.57dia
France	6.55-6.56	6.54-6.55	1-5 pm	-0.89	4.31 pm
Portugal	143.50-148.50	140.00-147.00	145-245c dia	-20.21	345.00-147.17
Ireland	202.26-204.00	203.26-203.76	35-100c dia	-0.83	220-295 dia
Greece	112.15-112.16	112.15-112.16	112-112c dia	-0.83	112-112c dia
Turkey	11.38-11.43	11.40-11.42	34-40c dia	-1.04	104-114c dia
Japan	10.85-10.90	10.88-10.89	12-16 dia	-14.88	39-43 dia
South Korea	234.50	234.50	234-234c dia	-14.88	39-43 dia
Malaysia	376-381	379-384	1.25-1.25y pm	0.14	3.30-3.05 pm
Australia	0.87-0.72-1.15	0.76-0.73	1174-99csm pm	4.37	99-94 pm
Switzerland	45.35-2.07	2.00-2.00	2-16c pm	4.37	99-94 pm

THE DOLLAR SPOT AND FORWARD

Dec. 31	Jan. 4	% change	One month	% Three months	% Six months	
U.S.	1.0170-1.0210	1.0170-1.0180	0.18-1.32 pct.	1.15	0.45-0.58 pct.	0.88
Ireland	1.3910-1.4100	1.3931-1.3980	0.02-0.72 pct.	6.83	21.13-1.83 pct.	5.82
Belgium	1.2310-1.2380	1.2320-1.2370	0.10-0.71 pct.	-0.88	0.24-0.28 pct.	0.83
Netherlands	3.6033	3.6033	0.00-0.00 pct.	0.00	0.00-0.00 pct.	0.00
Germany	46.80-46.95	46.81-46.93	28-23c	2.74	58.58 pct.	-5.37
Denmark	8.8000-8.8100	8.8070-8.8085	31-50c	6.08	124-16c	-5.44
Sweden	4.66-4.67	4.66-4.67	29-46c	4.49	2.51 pct.	2.38
Switzerland	88.00-91.00	89.00-91.00	100-300c	-28.67	300-100c	-28.67
France	124.80-126.00	125.25-125.75	65-95c	-7.68	228-220c	-7.81
Italy	1,575-1,576	1,575-1,576	0.00-0.00 pct.	0.00	0.00-0.00 pct.	0.00
Norway	7.0400-7.0700	7.0500-7.0600	2.80-3.80c	-5.81	7.90-8.90c	-7.46
Japan	234.50	234.50	9-12c	-14.71	26-33c	-17.62
Spain	6,7250-6,7300	6,7338-6,7375	37-42c	-17.81	20.13 pct.	-17.62
Greece	112.15-112.16	112.15-112.16	0.00-0.00 pct.	0.00	0.00-0.00 pct.	0.00
Turkey	234.50-236.20	234.75-234.85	0.65-0.57 pct.	3.07	1.45-1.30 pct.	2.34
Australia	16.48-16.49	16.47-16.48	4c-90c	2.15	124-114c	5.70
New Zealand	2.0500-2.0600	2.0570-2.0580	20-30c	3.15	124-114c	5.70

U.K. and Ireland are quoted in U.S. currency. Forward symbols and

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Dec. 31	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutsche Mark	Japanese Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guilder	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc
Pound Sterling	1	1.618	1.945	380.0	16.885	2.345	4.980	215	1.090	75.85
U.S. Dollar	0.618	1	2.577	234.59	6.750	2.008	4.329	166	1.280	49.99
Deutsche Mark	0.260	0.421	1	98.83	2.821	0.844	1.105	975.9	0.518	10.75
Japanese Yen 1,000	2.633	4.297	10.12	1000	28.64	8.539	11.18	5698	2.537	199.5
French Franc 10 Swiss Franc	0.919	1.486	3.532	349.1	10	2.991	5.904	2034	1.688	96.69
	0.308	0.498	1.185	117.1	3.354	1	1.510	685.4	0.518	33.97
Dutch Guilder	0.225	0.381	0.905	89.41	2.561	0.794	1	891.1	0.468	17.85
Italian Lira 1,000	0.452	0.730	1.736	171.6	4.915	1.455	1.919	1000	0.999	74.25
Canadian Dollar	0.503	0.815	1.932	191.0	5.470	1.681	2.136	1112	1	88.15
Belgian Franc 100	1.318	2.122	5.069	501.0	14.35	4.378	5.603	2920	2.584	100